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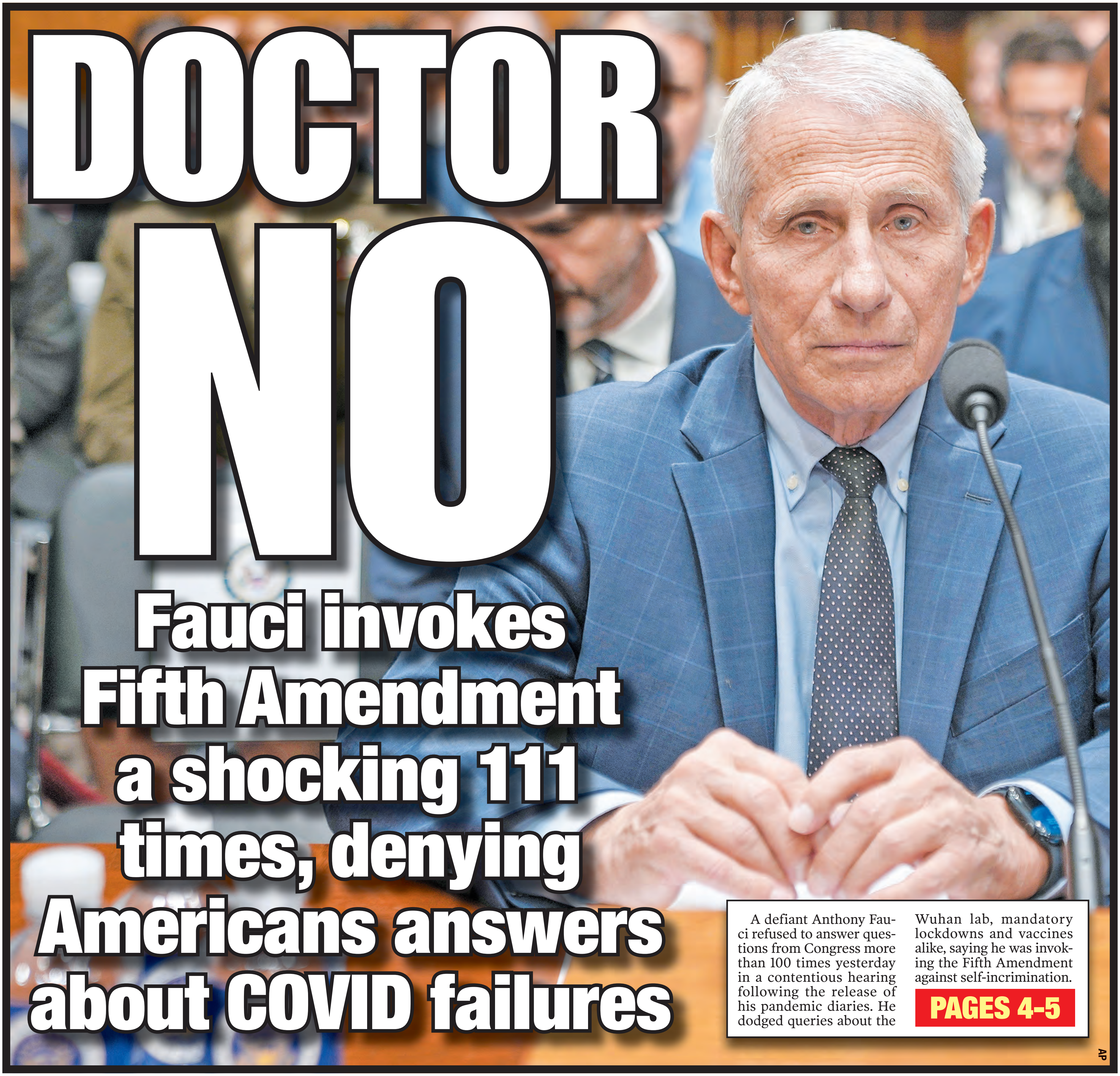


DOCTOR NO

Fauci invokes Fifth Amendment a shocking 111 times, denying Americans answers about COVID failures

A defiant Anthony Fauci refused to answer questions from Congress more than 100 times yesterday in a contentious hearing following the release of his pandemic diaries. He dodged queries about the Wuhan lab, mandatory lockdowns and vaccines alike, saying he was invoking the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination.

PAGES 4-5

AP

Zo bus vow un'fare'

FARE REQUIRED
5329
M101
AV
74

Janno: Evasion spike after 'free' talk

Helayne Seidman

STOP REQUESTED: MTA chief Janno Lieber urged New Yorkers to pay their fares amid a surge of freeloaders spurred by free-bus pledges.

By HALEY BROWN

MTA boss Janno Lieber blamed Mayor Mamdani's "free bus" promises for a spike in fare evasion that sent paid ridership plummeting by 7.7% in June.

The MTA CEO didn't mention Mamdani by name Wednesday as he railed against cheapskate riders emboldened by promises of free rides for everyone — calling the decline in paying straphangers "the reality of fare evasion."

"There's a trend that broke out," Lieber told reporters after an MTA board meeting. "With malice towards none, I say all of the talk of free buses, it has an impact.

"I'm not blaming anyone," Lieber added. "But we need to re-establish this."

MTA documents showed paid monthly ridership down year-over-year for January, May and June in 2026, with no data available for February through April.

In January there were 1.21 million paid weekday rides, down 8.1% from 2025. It plummeted 7.7% last month compared to June 2025, when there were 1.32 million paid riders, — while May saw a 10.4% decline.

Lieber suggested that free-bus promises, like those made by Mamdani, helped normalize the idea that riders don't need to pay. He urged riders to pay up, implying fare jumpers weren't just folks who couldn't afford the $3 ride.

"For all the people who are on their way to office jobs, who are making a good income, who walk by the bus driver and don't pay . . . you're just passing along the cost to another taxpayer. Somebody's going to have to pay for that ride."

He added, "Take responsibility for this precious system. It's a civic responsibility and we're going to have to create a system which feels a little fairer with enforcement to make sure that everybody understands it."

Mamdani made "fast and free buses" a central part of his campaign.

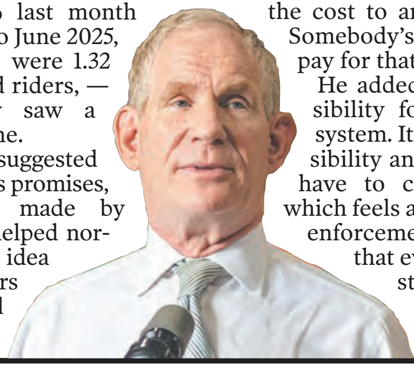
Since taking office, he has continued to tout the plan, citing a 2023 MTA pilot program that saw the agency test out five free routes as a success story.

But the MTA said it cost more than $16.5 million in lost revenue.

Lieber has argued that making buses free would be too expensive and that the state-controlled MTA cannot absorb the cost.

Still, he has stopped short of criticizing Mamdani directly.

Mamdani's free-bus idea would cost around $1.1 billion, according to the Independent Budget Office. The MTA has projected deficits of $295 million in 2027, $507 million in 2028, and $707 million in 2029.



MTA OT mess on Hochul: Bruce

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman railed against incumbent Gov. Hochul over soaring MTA spending — but said he stood by the "hardworking people" in the transit agency's labor unions after a Post report on rising OT spending.

Blakeman, the Nassau County exec, said the MTA's forecasted budget gaps — estimated at $295 million in 2027 and $507 million in 2028 — should be blamed on Hochul and MTA boss Janno Lieber's management and unchecked spending.

"We don't have a revenue problem; we've got a spending problem," Blakeman told reporters at a press conference in Penn Station Wednesday, where he arrived via an LIRR train.

A Post report Wednesday showed the MTA is on track this year to blow past its 2025 OT record of nearly $1.5 billion.

The report said nearly 1,000 MTA workers raked in more OT in 2025 than their base salaries.

Blakeman stood by the high-earning LIRR union workers when they went on strike in May — despite being offered a generous 4.5% raise to their already lucrative six-figure base salaries averaging $136,000 per year.

Hochul campaign rep Ryan Radulovacki argued Blakeman was supportive of President Trump's threat to withhold federal funds for faster transit.

"Bruce Blakeman did more than let it happen, he agreed that attacking New York to push MAGA's agenda was the right idea," Radulovacki said.

A poll released this week by a pro-Blakeman super PAC found him trailing Hochul by only 4 percentage points, though he trails by larger margins in other surveys.

Hannah Fierick

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NEW YORK
- Midday Nos. Wed.: **502**
- Midday Win-4 Wed.: **3584**
- Midday Take-5 Wed.: **26, 30, 32, 36, 39**
- Evening Nos. Wed.: **061**
- Evening Win-4 Wed.: **9554**
- Evening Take-5 Wed.: **11, 15, 16, 22, 29**
- Lotto Wed.: **6, 8, 14, 24, 31, 58**; Bonus: **45**
- Pick-10 Wed.: **5, 7, 16, 25, 28, 32, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 56, 60, 62, 69, 77, 80**
- Millionaire for Life Wed.: **9, 10, 25, 27, 36**; MB: **1**
- Powerball Wed.: **30, 36, 40, 42, 57**; PB: **2**; PP: **x2**; DP: **24, 37, 40, 51, 55**; PB: **5**

NEW JERSEY
- Pick-3 Wed.: **432;** Fireball: **6**
- Pick-4 Wed.: **4540;** Fireball: **6**
- Cash-5 Xtra Wed.: **3, 27, 30, 37, 42;** Xtra: **x2**

CONNECTICUT
- Play-3 Wed.: **876;** Wild: **8**
- Play-4 Wed.: **1192;** Wild: **3**
- Cash-5 Wed.: **12,14,16,28,29**

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GLEN HANSARD
Won Oscar for best song.

‘Once’ star dies in crash

Oscar-winning Irish singer-songwriter Glen Hansard died tragically in a motorcycle crash on Wednesday morning. He was 56.

Hansard, who starred in and won the Oscar for best original song for “Falling Slowly” in the indie film “Once,” died in a single-vehicle crash in County Dublin just before 4:30 a.m., according to the Irish Times.

“With broken hearts we announce the passing of Glen Hansard,” the singer’s management said in a statement. “We are still dealing with the shock of it all, so we kindly ask that the privacy of Glen’s family, colleagues and friends is respected at this difficult time.”

Hansard, a married father of one, began his career busking on his native Dublin’s streets before finding success with influential Irish band The Frames in 1990. He was half of folk duo The Swell Season with Marketa Irglova, his co-star in 2007’s “Once.”

Patrick Reilly with Wires

Fla. $800M Mega win

A lucky Florida ticket holder won the estimated $800 million Mega Millions jackpot — the year’s biggest and the 10th largest in the game’s history — Tuesday.

The winning numbers were 34, 48, 49, 59, 70, with the gold Mega Ball 12.

It was not immediately announced where the winning ticket was purchased.

The unidentified ticket holder can choose between the $800 million prize in an annuity or a one-time pretax $344.2 million cash payout. *Nicholas McEntyre*

Heiress suit over club’s pup ‘pamper’ rule

Alizada Studios

***GRRR*: Ringling Bros. circus heiress Karen Feld is suing The National Arts Club for requiring her dogs wear diapers at the ritzy Gramercy Park institution.**

Facebook/Campari-Bellini Feld

GOTTA GO! OR DIAPERS

By PETER SENZAMICI

What a circus.

A ritzy Manhattan arts club banned the heiress to the “Ringling Bros.” fortune for refusing to put diapers on her service dogs — and now she’s barking mad about it, according to a new lawsuit.

The National Arts Club — an exclusive Gramercy Park institution where celebrity members have reportedly included Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt and Martin Scorsese — effectively booted heiress-cum-columnist Karen Feld from its historic building, she claims in the suit.

Feld, a longtime journalist whose father owned Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, had been bringing her two small-breed pooches, Mango and Beignet, to events at the club’s posh Victorian mansion to help with her PTSD and seizure disorders, the suit claims.

But the National Arts Club’s food and beverage director booted her from a May 19 event that she’d attended with her pups as a guest of a National Arts Club member, according to the suit, filed this week in Manhattan Supreme Court.

‘Sanitation concern’

Feld said she’d been scheduled to return the following day for a luncheon for the Silurians Press Club — a group of veteran journalists where she serves as a board member.

But the press club’s incoming president passed along a message from the venue declaring Feld “would not be permitted to attend that day’s scheduled luncheon with her service dogs . . . unless the service dogs wore dog diapers,” the suit claims.

The club cited “sanitation concerns,” but Feld contended the pooches had been professionally groomed.

She called the diaper excuse a cover for alleged discrimination, according to the lawsuit.

Feld “has attended NAC events for approximately 20 years with her service dogs and, prior to the events described herein, had never received any complaint concerning the dogs,” her suit claims. “[It] constituted unlawful disability discrimination.”

The club denies her claims and contends her furry friends twice had accidents inside the posh building.

“In the first incident, the dogs soiled club property, which was documented. In a separate incident, detectable noxious orders consistent with the dogs having urinated were reported in the club’s private member spaces,” the club stated in a press release.

“The National Arts Club denies Ms. Feld’s meritless claims.”

Feld’s lawyer declined to comment.

Additional reporting by Natalie O’Neill and Joyce Cohen

DR. FAUCI'S SILENT

STEVEN W. MOSHER

No defense for legacy of mistakes

DESPITE being pardoned by President Joe Biden for his COVID crimes, Anthony Fauci pleaded his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent.

He refused to answer a single question about his role in pandemic policy before the Homeland Security Committee, chaired by Sen. Rand Paul, despite being immune from prosecution.

I think I know why.

Fauci was wrong about everything. From the lab origin of COVID-19 to the China travel ban, from foolish mandatory facemasks to punishing lockdowns, his "legacy" is one misstep after another.

His authoritarian edicts made things worse, much worse, for Americans than they otherwise would have been.

Fauci had initially dismissed the Wuhan virus in January radio interviews as "a very, very low risk to the United States." So it might have been, except for the incredible series of wrong calls that Fauci made in the months following.

These began early in 2020, when President Trump wanted to impose a travel ban. Dr. Fauci vigorously objected to the move, insisting that "travel bans don't work."

And so planes from China carrying infected passengers continued to land in New York and other American cities.

Damaging lockdowns

As COVID began its predictable spread in the US, Fauci was suddenly everywhere on the airwaves warning about how contagious and even lethal the coronavirus was.

In March 2020, panicked by a pandemic model from the UK that predicted a viral apocalypse, he recommended that the entire country be shut down indefinitely. He backed a shelter-in-place order for New York City and the closure of schools and "nonessential" small businesses.

These moves denied tens of millions of children an education, put roughly 40 million people out of work and nearly bankrupted the US economy.

The model that Fauci relied upon turned out to be algorithmic garbage, but that didn't stop America's most famous virologist from committing every epidemiological sin in the book.

There was early evidence from geriatric Italy that, while COVID merely gave the young the sniffles, it could be deadly to the elderly. This was shockingly confirmed by New York City's long-term-care centers, whose residents were carted out in coffins by the thousands.

But instead of protecting the vulnerable elderly, as experts like Scott Atlas recommended, Fauci publicly attacked their ideas as "nonsense and very dangerous." His solution — a scattershot effort to vaccinate every man, woman and child in America — cost the lives of countless elderly whose lives could have been saved if they had been given priority.

It was clear from the outset that the risk of children dying from COVID-19 was effectively zero, far lower than their risk of dying from the seasonal flu, which is tiny. Yet by early March 2020, Fauci was loudly calling for nationwide school closures.

Closing America's schools did not save lives. But it did have a destructive effect on the academic performance and the emotional health of children. Many children suffered severe learning losses as they went a year with virtually no schooling or social interaction at all.

Most dangerous 'gain'

Fauci's "original pandemic sin," of course, was funding Chinese labs. The long-time head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases was the chief cheerleader and funder of "gain of function" research — the dangerous idea that deadly viruses could be created and studied in the lab to help prevent the next pandemic.

Had the head of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Dr. Shi Zhengli, not been taught these techniques in Fauci-funded labs, she wouldn't have been able to create coronaviruses in her lab. And the world might have been spared the COVID pandemic.

Whether Fauci inadvertently helped to create COVID or not, once it had emerged from Wuhan, he made a bad situation much, much worse.

The truth is, Fauci couldn't have caused any more unnecessary suffering and death in America if he had tried to.

No wonder he doesn't want to answer any questions.

Steven W. Mosher is the author of "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Pandemics" and the president of the Population Research Institute.

InStyle
The Good Doctor

AP

By JOSH CHRISTENSON, ALLY GOELZ and RYAN KING

WASHINGTON — Dr. Anthony Fauci, who became a household name as the ubiquitous mouthpiece of the federal COVID pandemic response, invoked the Fifth Amendment a stunning 111 times Wednesday on Capitol Hill — in what critics are calling a slap in the face to Americans.

During the nationally televised Senate hearing, Fauci, 85, provided zero answers or clarity on his decision-making during one of the most unprecedented times in US history, which left more than 1 million Americans dead and more still reeling from the aftermath.

Instead, the country's leading infectious-disease expert called out Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rand Paul (R-Ky.) for an "obsession with calling for my prosecution" and releasing an "unredacted personal diary" he kept during the pandemic.

Paul subpoenaed Fauci, the former head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to testify on US funding of risky research in Wuhan, China, where COVID-19 originated, and whether his actions led to "the largest man-made plague in human history."

In one dramatic moment, Paul ejected Fauci's attorney David Schertler from the hearing room for ignoring the chairman's repeated warnings not to speak on behalf of the doctor.

Fauci's decision to repeatedly invoke the Fifth Amendment enraged Republican senators who had hoped to grill him about bureaucratic overreach.

It also prompted questions about the limits of former President Joe Biden's sweeping pardon of Fauci before the 46th president left office, which shielded Fauci from possible crimes committed between Jan. 1, 2014, and Jan. 19, 2025.

'Slap in the face'

Republicans led by Paul had expected answers after the publication of Fauci's diary, especially as his private comments, from 2019 to 2021, contradicted public statements he made about COVID's origins and who was responsible for the pandemic lockdowns.

The pandemic claimed the lives of more than 7 million people globally, drove American students' test scores to record lows and cost the US economy trillions.

"Clearly, what you think today is

TREATMENT

Pleads Fifth 111 times in Senate stonewall

QUIET THE CONTRARY: Dr. Anthony Fauci idly listens Wednesday to questions — which he declined to answer — from senators on the Homeland Security Committee,including Josh Hawley (inset), about his handling of the American response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues.

Getty Images

‘Contempt’ beyond pardon: Rand

Dr. Anthony Fauci’s pardon from President Joe Biden won’t save him from prosecution for obstructing Congress, Sen. Rand Paul warned Wednesday.

Fauci invoked the Fifth Amendment more than 100 times before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, saying he believed Paul (R-Ky.) was trying to entrap him with the goal of throwing him in jail.

The former federal infectious-disease agency chief is no longer protected by Biden’s pardon, which only excuses potential illegal acts committed by Fauci between Jan. 1, 2014, and Jan. 19, 2025.

Paul set a committee vote of Aug. 5 to pass a resolution holding Fauci in contempt of Congress for dodging the questions.

“There will be repercussions to your refusal to testify,” Paul said.

Emily Goodin

that somehow you’re above reproach,” said Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio), before asking audience members to stand up if they were called “racist for calling the virus a ‘Wuhan virus’ or the ‘China virus’; if you thought the six-foot rule was total crap . . . if you thought it was outrageous the way the mask policy was rolled out; if you were fired from your job for not taking that vaccine, including members of the military; if you thought closing schools was catastrophically stupid.”

Several stood, including Fox News host Laura Ingraham.

After the hearing, former Fox News meteorologist Janice Dean told The Post that Fauci’s invocations of the Fifth Amendment were “another slap in the face” to grieving families. Dean’s mother- and father-in-law were among the thousands of seniors who died of COVID in nursing homes.

Fauci was the public face of the pandemic with regular press briefings and interviews — but he clammed up under oath.

“Given Senator Paul’s obvious obsession with calling for my prosecution, his repeated slanderous comments about me and recently his publicly releasing my unredacted personal diary aimed at embarrassing and intimidating me, the only conclusion I can reach is that the sole reason he is calling me before this committee is to get me to say something, anything, that could vindicate his repeated public pledges that I end up, in his words, ‘behind bars,’ ” Fauci said at the hearing.

Miranda Devine /Page 15

Five most shocking moments

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

AP

1. Fauci took the Fifth at least 111 times to questions that would have teased out critical information about the origins of the COVID pandemic and US funding for gain-of-function research in China.

In another startling example, Sen. Rand Paul asked Fauci whether the CIA had ever funded NIAID. before the Homeland Security committee chairman revealed later in the hearing that he had obtained documents describing the interagency spending agreement.

He also dodged questions about his former senior adviser David Morens, who pleaded not guilty in May to concealing and destroying federal records.

“Our investigation reveals your assistant diligently reported that she deleted tons of emails in 2024. You testified that you did not delete federal records. Who’s telling the truth?” Paul asked at one point.

2. Paul had US Capitol Police escort Fauci’s attorney, David Schertler (top right), out of the hearing room following a tense exchange a little more than a half-hour into questioning.

It’s unclear if Schertler intended to read from a letter he sent to Paul last month, which was referenced in the hearing by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) — but he repeatedly tried to interject only to be shouted down by the chairman.

“I’ve said my piece,” Schertler told Paul. The letter noted many public statements by Paul threatening to jail Fauci.

Schertler, a prominent defense attorney, has represented Joe Biden’s doctor and ex-Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ).

3. Several Republicans on the committee used their questioning time to tear into Fauci for pandemic policies.

“There was a mom in Ohio during the depth of the coronavirus pandemic, decided to go to our high school football game for her son,” Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio) recounted. “They sat alone, far from everybody else — just a mom, a dad, a few kids . . . outside.

“They were dragged out of that stadium and arrested,” Moreno fumed. “I said to myself, ‘I cannot stand idly on the side and watch this happen.’ . . . Here I am sitting in front of you six years later saying, who the f--k do you think you were for doing that?”

Sen. Ashley Moody (R-Fla.) drew attention to Fauci’s newly released NIAID diaries, which he acknowledged were authentic, noting passages in which he recalled pushing for lockdowns in conversations with then-Mayor Bill de Blasio and President Trump — despite publicly denying he did so. She pressed, “How do you square telling the American people publicly that you didn’t recommend locking anything down with your own diary entry?”

4. Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) accused Fauci of using NIAID staff to solicit prize money.

“You were using federal employees . . . to apply for and solicit cash prizes for you personally — cash prizes totaling over $1 million,” Hawley scolded.

He cited the Adelson Prize, Smithsonian Award, the National Academy of Medicine’s award and the CDC Foundation’s award, among others.

Fauci, in response, invoked his Fifth Amendment right.

5. Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) revealed that Fauci approved the use of “aborted baby body parts in mice research.”

“NIH-funded coronavirus researcher Dr. Ralph Baric and his colleagues at UNC put parts of livers, thymus and chunks of human fetal lung that they got from aborted, almost 5-month-old human babies,” Ernst said. “They put those parts in their research mice. They disgustingly named them ‘BLT-L’ mice, and wrote they had created a ‘sandwich of aborted body parts in the mice.’ ”

Asked by Ernst if he supported this research method, Fauci again declined to answer.

‘Hammer nut’s had 53 arrests

Set free again and again . . .

By KEVIN SHEEHAN,
JOE MARINO
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

A career criminal with 53 busts who allegedly chased a 19-year-old woman into a Queens Jewish school this week has repeatedly been cut loose without bail because of the state’s 2020 criminal-justice reforms.

Shaleek Brunson, 42, was hit Wednesday with assault, menacing, burglary and weapons charges for the incident at the Jewish Institute of Queens in Elmhurst, but none of those raps is bail-eligible, meaning he could just be cut loose again.

Police allege a hammer-wielding Brunson followed the victim, a stranger, before she ran into the school Tuesday morning. He scuffled with a security guard there before he was taken into custody.

Brunson had just been arrested Friday in Manhattan in the theft of $1,300 of items from Bergdorf Goodman. In that case, he was charged with grand larceny and possession of stolen property but released without bail at his arraignment Sunday.

On July 10, he was charged with petty larceny in Queens for an incident two days earlier, and referred to an alternative intervention program, but also released without bail.

He was already facing charges of petty larceny and possession of stolen property from another Queens incident in April, according to court records.

Brunson had an additional two dozen busts that have since been sealed, law-enforcement sources said.

Sources said he has past ties to a gang from the Louis Pink Houses in Brooklyn and a long history of mental-health-related episodes.

Sources said his rap sheet also includes a 2025 robbery arrest, the details of which weren’t available.

Brunson was hospitalized after his arrest Tuesday, and his arraignment in Queens Criminal Court remained pending Wednesday.

In that incident, cops said Brunson started following the woman at Hoffman Drive and Woodhaven Boulevard at around 10:50 a.m.

Motive unknown

He allegedly followed her inside, where he got into a struggle with the guard, resulting in an 8-year-old boy being knocked to the ground and hitting his head, police said.

Cops have not revealed what prompted him to follow the woman.

Sources said the woman is not Jewish and a rep for Queens Shmira, a nonprofit public safety patrol, said they could “confirm that this incident was not a hate crime.”

City Councilman Phil Wong, who represents the neighborhood, said Tuesday that he was grateful no one was seriously hurt.

“I am praying for the injured child, the . . . woman who sought refuge and everyone impacted by this incident,” Wong said.

Additional reporting by Kyle Schnitzer

2ND BUST IN A WEEK: Police stand guard over Shaleek Brunson (below left and in mugshot) Tuesday after he allegedly held a hammer (below right, bagged as evidence) while chasing a woman in Queens.

Judge gives temple rammer break

A disturbed man who rammed his car into an iconic Brooklyn synagogue will get out of lockup within the week, a federal judge decided Wednesday — as he slammed prosecutors for requesting a harsher sentence based on a “misunderstanding” that the terrifying episode was a hate crime.

Brooklyn federal Judge Eric Vitaliano ripped the US Department of Justice for seeking a 14-month sentence for mentally ill New Jersey resident Dan Sohail, 36, as a supposed deterrent to others from committing antisemitic crimes.

“A property crime is what was charged here. Not a hate crime,” Vitaliano railed during Sohail’s sentencing hearing.

Federal sentencing guidelines for such a charge, a first-offense property crime, land at around six months in prison.

Sohail has already spent six months in jail after being arrested Jan. 28 in the aftermath of the crash at 770 Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, the headquarters of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement.

The sentence of time served, plus seven days, means Sohail will likely be released from custody at some point in the next week.

The crash caused $19,000 in property damage, which Sohail was ordered to pay back. *Ben Kochman*

Teen e-biker killed

A 17-year-old e-bike rider died when he rammed into a moving SUV near City Hall during Wednesday’s morning rush, police said.

Gabriel Nacato, of Brooklyn, was pedaling northbound on Centre Street near the busy Chambers Street intersection just before 9 a.m. when he veered out of the bike lane and into the vehicular lane, authorities said.

That’s when Nacato slammed into the 2008 black Chevrolet Tahoe heading in the same direction, cops and law-enforcement sources said.

Responding EMS workers pronounced him dead at the scene, which is also blocks from NYPD headquarters and the lower Manhattan courthouses.

The driver of the Tahoe, a 40-year-old woman, stayed at the scene and wasn’t facing any charges, cops said.

The mortally wounded e-biker was carrying a school ID when he was discovered, and had no alcohol or drugs in his system, the sources said. The NYPD’s Collision Investigation Squad was probing the incident.

The crash happened steps from the Brooklyn Bridge exit ramp into the buzzing Civic Center area.

Joe Marino
and Amanda Woods

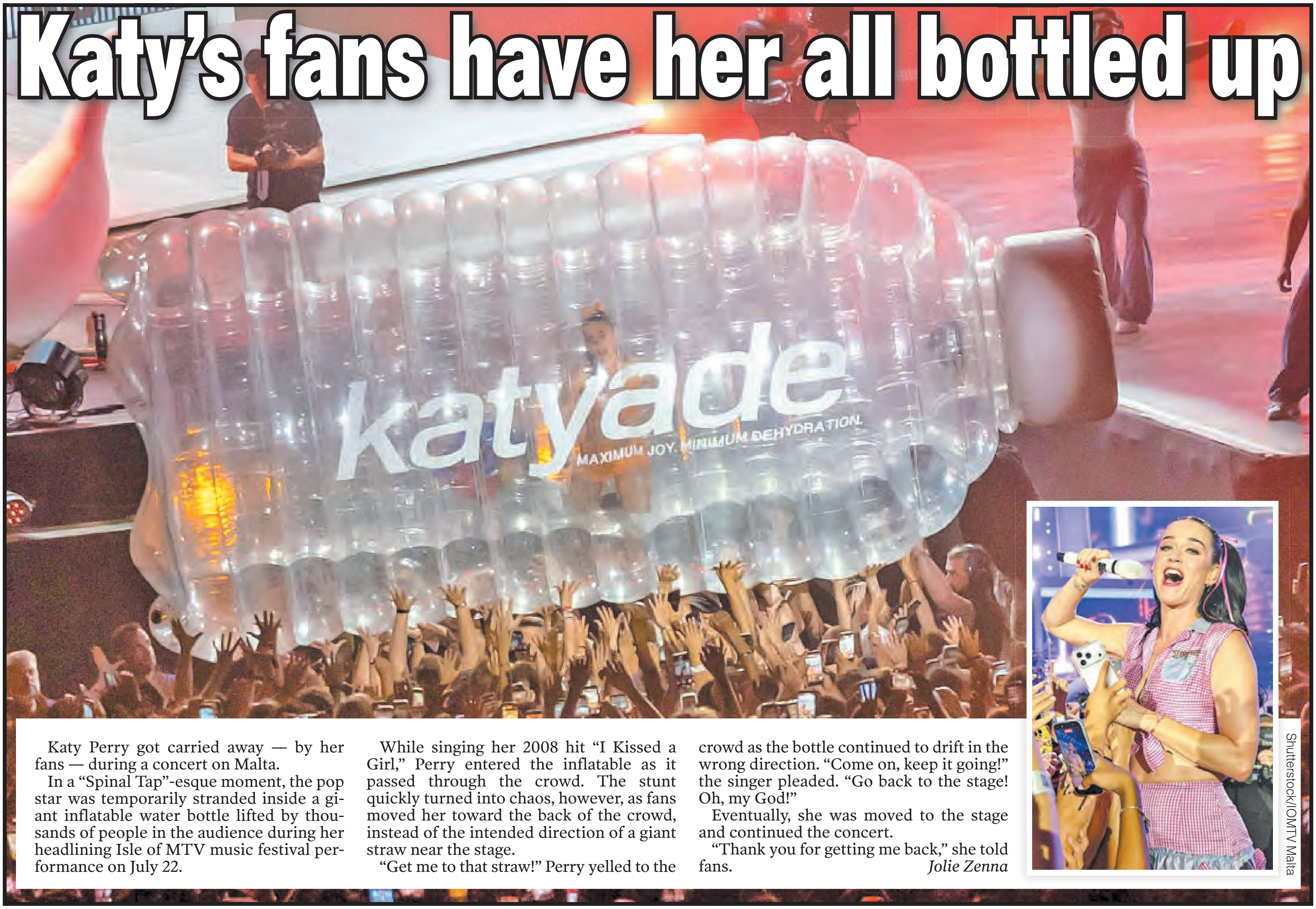
Search for quake vics

Rescuers frantically searched for survivors Wednesday, a day after a 7.1-magnitude earthquake shook southern Japan, killing at least 13 people, knocking out power to thousands of homes and rupturing roads across the region.

Eight people were pulled from the rubble of a partially collapsed shopping mall near the city of Kumamoto that was torn apart by an explosion just over an hour after Tuesday’s earthquake. Of them, three died.

‘There are people waiting to be rescued, and this is a race against time,” Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told reporters. *Reuters*

Katy's fans have her all bottled up



Salvatore Di Nolfi/EPA/Shutterstock

Shutterstock/IOMTV Malta

Katy Perry got carried away — by her fans — during a concert on Malta.

In a "Spinal Tap"-esque moment, the pop star was temporarily stranded inside a giant inflatable water bottle lifted by thousands of people in the audience during her headlining Isle of MTV music festival performance on July 22.

While singing her 2008 hit "I Kissed a Girl," Perry entered the inflatable as it passed through the crowd. The stunt quickly turned into chaos, however, as fans moved her toward the back of the crowd, instead of the intended direction of a giant straw near the stage.

"Get me to that straw!" Perry yelled to the crowd as the bottle continued to drift in the wrong direction. "Come on, keep it going!" the singer pleaded. "Go back to the stage! Oh, my God!"

Eventually, she was moved to the stage and continued the concert.

"Thank you for getting me back," she told fans. *Jolie Zenna*

Secrets of soda

Don't be surprised if your next Coke or Pepsi comes with something extra on the can.

The nation's biggest beverage companies are quietly adding QR codes to their packaging, allowing shoppers to scan for more information about the ingredients in their drinks. The codes do not replace Nutrition Facts labels.

The effort, led by the American Beverage Association, includes brands from the Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo and Polar Beverages. Scanning the code takes consumers to a website called Good to Know, which explains more than 140 ingredients commonly found in beverages. *Adam Silverstein*

THE BIGGER LOSERS

Women on GLP-1s shed more than men

By RACHEL SACKS

It's a battle of the sexes.

Women lose more pounds on GLP-1 weight-loss drugs than men, new research shows.

In a study of 1,000 patients, women lost significantly more weight than men after using the drug Mounjaro for more than a year.

Researchers measured the percentage of total body weight lost across three age groups, split by gender: adults under 45, those between 46 and 59 and those 60 and older.

After 15 months of continuous treatment, women had lost 15% of their body weight, compared with nearly 11% for men.

Researchers also examined other factors that could affect the amount of weight lost.

While participants under 45 did lose more weight than those over 60 — 15% in the younger group compared with 12% — age was not the strongest predictor of results.

Women challenged

In addition to being female, greater weight loss was seen in people who didn't have Type 2 diabetes, had never used a weight-loss medication before and took a higher dose of tirzepatide.

Women have historically had a tougher time losing weight due to lower muscle mass, hormonal shifts and differences in how the body stores fat, among other reasons.

However, other studies have also found that women tend to lose more weight than men on GLP-1s, the class of medications that includes tirzepatide and Ozempic.

In a meta-analysis of nearly 20,000 people taking drugs such as semaglutide and dulaglutide, women lost about 11% of their body weight, compared with about 7% for their male counterparts.

Once again, the researchers compared factors that could influence weight loss, including age, race, ethnicity and body mass index, and found that gender was the factor associated with the largest difference.

There are a few theories as to why women appear to have vastly different results.

One centers on how women's bodies clear the drug from the bloodstream more slowly than men's. Hormones may also enhance GLP-1 effects, particularly estrogen, which helps regulate appetite, fullness, energy use and insulin sensitivity.

And the benefits of Mounjaro for women may extend beyond shrinking waistlines.

Other studies have also found that women taking GLP-1 drugs may be less likely to develop breast cancer.

4 ACCUSE

Actor ‘sexual misconduct’ alleged in doc

By ADAM SILVERSTEIN

Jared Leto has been accused of sexual misconduct by four women who allege the acts took place when they were teenagers.

The allegations are detailed in the new BBC documentary “Jared Leto: Hollywood’s Dark Secret” and stem from alleged encounters with the Oscar winner between 2002 and 2016, when he was in his 30s and 40s, the BBC reported.

The four women, who were between the ages of 16 and 19 at the time of the alleged assaults, are identified in the documentary as “Isabel,” “Alex,” “Clara” and “Etta,” though those are not their real names.

“Isabel” alleged that the “Dallas Buyers Club” star, now 54, sexually assaulted her in a motel bathroom when she was 17 in 2002.

“Clara” alleged she had sex with Leto in 2006 when she was 17 in California, where the age of consent is 18.

She claimed Leto “shrugged off” a conversation about the state’s age of consent.

As for “Alex,” she claimed the “Suicide Squad” actor threatened her with sexual assault when she was 19 after she was unexpectedly left alone with him in a hotel room in 2013.

“Etta” further alleged Leto groomed her a year later, when she was 16, by making repeated sexually explicit phone calls and suggesting on at least one occasion that they should have sex.

Two years later, “Etta” claimed she had received a nondisclosure agreement intended to prevent her from discussing their relationship, but she refused to sign it. The BBC said it reviewed the document.

Backstage with band

Four other women alleged they received unusual and often sexually explicit phone calls from Leto when they were younger.

Another woman, who was named “Taylor” in the documentary, alleged Leto instructed a security guard to take her backstage at a music festival when she was 14 after making a sexual comment about her chest during an autograph signing. She claimed her mom confronted him, but he repeated the remark.

“This was 25 years ago . . . he has gotten away with it,” one accuser said in the documentary.

The BBC said it corroborated a number of the women’s accounts through friends and family members they spoke to at the time, as well as photographs, messages and other supporting material.

The documentary also features two men who worked with Leto’s band, Thirty Seconds to Mars, for years.

They claimed staff was uncomfortable with the actor’s interactions with teenage girls, alleging he sometimes invited them backstage to his dressing room or to the house where he was recording. “I think everyone thought the age gap was way too big,” one former staffer claimed.

When asked for comment on the new claims, Leto told Page Six in a statement, “I have never sexually assaulted anyone in my entire life. These claims are absolutely and categorically false.”

The allegations add to claims

‘ALEX’

A former model, she alleged that Leto threatened her with sexual assault when she was 19 after she was unexpectedly left alone with him in a hotel room in 2013.

She claimed she went to Leto’s band’s concert in London and then was invited to an after-party by his female assistant.

“Alex” alleged that she lied that she was 17, to which Leto, then 41, allegedly replied, “Age is just a number, and anyway we’re in Europe.”

After the party, “Alex” was allegedly encouraged to go to a nearby hotel by one of Leto’s assistants. When she arrived, she was surprised to see Leto alone in the “really dark” room.

Leto, according to “Alex,” refused to give her a phone charger or cash so she could get home. She then asked Leto if she could sleep on the chaise longue in the room, but Leto allegedly told her if she did that she’d wake up “with a d--k in her a--.”

After Leto allegedly made that comment multiple times, “Alex” said she realized she “was not safe” and fled the room.

“Alex” told the BBC she thinks the hotel encounter was “all planned out.”

LADIES MAN: The Thirty Seconds to Mars singer looks the part of cult leader in August 2020 at a wellness retreat for the band’s fans on the private island of Obonjan, Croatia.

Thirty Seconds to Mars/X

Weird ‘cult’ retreat on private isle

By AUDREY ROCK

Years before Jared Leto’s sexual-assault scandal — which has culminated in four women accusing the Oscar winner of sexual improprieties while they were teens in a new BBC documentary — he was also accused of heading a seeming “cult.”

In August 2020, the Thirty Seconds to Mars frontman headed up a wellness retreat at “Mars Island” — ostensibly for members of his band’s fan base, which is dubbed The Echelon — on the private, uninhabited island of Obonjan, Croatia.

At the alcohol-free retreat, attendees were said to have swam, sunbathed, walked on the beach and practiced yoga, all while celebrating their regard for the “Dallas Buyers Club” actor and his band.

But according to Air Mail — which in 2025 published accounts of sexual improprieties allegedly committed by Leto toward nine women, all of which he denied — the mostly female attendees also “meditated, chanted and lounged barefoot in caftans alongside Leto.”

Though the “House of Gucci” star’s band called it a “spiritual retreat,” the overall vibe of the festival drew widespread comparisons to a cult.

Speculation reached a high after the “Requiem for a Dream” star, now 54, was spotted in a photo standing on a cliff with his arms raised — his fans standing below him, with their arms also outstretched.

Other images shared to social media showed fans sitting on the floor listening to Leto, seated on a stool, speak to them. “Yes, this is a cult,” a 2019 tweet posted by Thirty Seconds to Mars read, adding the hashtag, “#MarsIsland.”

Malibu ‘Camp Mars’

In multiple images, both Leto and his fans wore white as they navigated the immersive three-day retreat, which was said to have cost over $6,499 to attend.

Prior to Mars Island, Thirty Seconds to Mars also launched an adults-only event in Malibu, Calif., in 2015 dubbed “Camp Mars” — a weekend fan retreat filled with campfires, archery, hiking and music that culminated in nightly “Church of Mars” concerts. Camp Mars had its final event in 2019.

Although the events have raised eyebrows, according to L’Officiel, the band had leaned into the “cult” image by “playing on journalists telling them that they have a ‘cult following.’ ”

In fact, Leto was spotted in an image, seemingly taken at Mars Island in 2019, wearing a shirt reading “This is a Cult.”

TEEN-LOVIN' LETO

Accusations against actor and musician Jared Leto by women in a BBC documentary range from simply creepy behavior to intimidation and ignoring the age of consent.

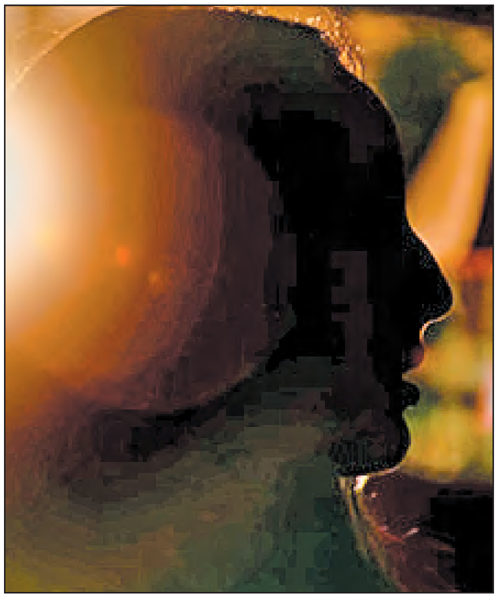
'ISABEL'

Claimed she was sexually assaulted by Leto in 2002 when she was 17.

After meeting at a Las Vegas store where "Isabel" was working, Leto allegedly invited her over to a "dingy gross motel," where the "Panic Room" star allegedly called her into the bathroom to talk while he showered.

"I don't think there was many words exchanged and he opened the shower curtain and started kissing me," "Isabel" explained, claiming Leto then grabbed her hand and used it to masturbate himself.

"Isabel" further alleged that when she told Leto she wanted to leave, he put on a towel and checked outside the room to see if anyone was around before letting her go.



'CLARA'

Claims she was 17 when she met Leto, then 34, in 2006 at one of his Thirty Seconds to Mars concerts. One of the singer's associates allegedly got her phone number for Leto.

After the concert, "Clara" and Leto allegedly went back to his house in California and had sex while her friend waited in another room.

"He told me, 'I would like you to call me daddy,' " she claimed in the documentary. "And it was either pretend to be a little girl or 'my little girl.' "

"Clara" claimed she was "so naive and vulnerable" in the moment and didn't realize that Leto's behavior was not "normal." "It was only as time went on that I realized more and more how scary that really was," she added. "Clara" also claimed that the "Fight Club" star "shrugged off" a conversation about California's age of consent.

"It wasn't a huge concern for him," she alleged, adding, "There is no well-adjusted man in his 30s who's going to look at a teenager and think . . . 'she would be a great partner.' "

"Clara" claimed she visited Leto's home three or four times total.

that have surfaced against Leto over the years.

'Constantly texting'

Last year, Los Angeles DJ Allie Teilz alleged on social media that Leto assaulted her when she was 17, prompting other women to come forward with similar claims.

Nine women accused Leto of sexual impropriety in an article published by Air Mail in June 2025. Leto denied the allegations.

The Post reported in September 2005 that Leto was "hitting on all" the teen models at New York City's Maritime Hotel and "constantly texting these other 16- and 17-year-old girls."

Leto has been a prominent Hollywood actor since the 1990s, winning an Academy Award as supporting actor for "Dallas Buyers Club" in 2014 and most recently starring in "Masters of the Universe."

He formed the rock band Thirty Seconds to Mars in LA in 1998, and the group has sold more than 15 million albums worldwide.

If you or someone you know is affected by any of the issues raised in this story, call the Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-330-0226.

GETTING SERIOUS: Movie star Jared Leto, who starred in 2016's "Suicide Squad" as the Joker (above), is facing allegations of sexual misconduct by women who said they were teens at the time.

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

Iran gets Chinese arms

‘Red’ menace

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH IRAN: Chinese troops show off high-tech shoulder-fired missiles like those reportedly headed to Iran.

By CHRIS NESI

Iran is poised to receive its first shipment of shoulder-fired missile launchers from China amid the escalating war with the US — which is now in its sixth month.

The $60-$70 million deal, first reported by Reuters, is one of the regime’s most high-profile efforts to boost its short-range air defenses since war broke out in February, laying bare its inability to defend military sites and strategic infrastructure against aerial bombardments by the US and Israel.

The contract will see between 300 and 400 man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), complete with Chinese-made QW-12 and FN-16 missiles, delivered to Tehran in the coming weeks, sources told the outlet.

China was quick to downplay news of the deal, its foreign ministry dismissing the report as “completely groundless” and insisting the nation “has consistently played a role in promoting peace and ending the conflict.”

Iran’s foreign ministry did not respond to Reuters’ request for comment.

After months of war, which has seen Israel and the US relentlessly pummel Iran’s missile, drone and air-defense sites, Tehran finds itself badly in need of rearming.

The delivery of Chinese-made missile launchers would significantly boost Iran’s military, and highlight the unnerving depth of the nations’ military ties.

Reuters sources said the deliveries will be routed through Pakistan.

However, Pakistan’s military public relations wing denied any involvement, saying, “Speculations of Pakistan being involved in supply of air defense weapons to Iran from China are absolutely concocted and false.”

President Trump on Saturday announced the US would pause airstrikes against Iran, but told reporters full-scale war could return “if we don’t get 100% of what we want” in the negotiations.

Iranian officials have publicly pushed back against US pressure while divisions persist inside Tehran over whether diplomacy or confrontation is the best path forward.

Heavy ‘toll’ of war

The Iran-backed Houthi terror group is considering copying Iran’s Strait of Hormuz toll scheme and imposing fees on ships sailing through the southern Red Sea, according to people with knowledge on the matter.

The Yemen-based rebel group is looking to extend Iran’s control on tanker traffic and global fuel supplies in the region by seizing full control of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which links the southern Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden, sources told Reuters.

The plan was allegedly put together after Houthi officials traveled to Iran earlier this month during the cease-fire to attend the funeral of slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. *Ronny Reyes*

Don, Bibi plot next moves

President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday focused on “big three” options for ending the war with Iran on Wednesday, coming up with new ideas — such as cutting off Iran’s trade by ground — in a “clinical” conversation, senior Israeli officials said.

“There are usually a lot more jokes. The president is usually a lot more jovial,” one Israeli official who was in the room for the discussion told reporters on Wednesday. “This was a very, very serious conversation — cerebral.”

The leaders focused on three lines of strategy to end Iran’s nuclear program and push it to reopen the Strait of Hormuz: getting a good deal, tightening the economic noose around Tehran and expanding the military campaign.

Netanyahu “did not tell the president” which to choose, and no decisions were made on which path Trump would take, a separate senior Israeli official said.

“The value of what we did . . . is I think we added some new ideas,” the person said.

Caitlin Doornbos

Running out of Patriots

The US has used up two-thirds of its Patriot missile interceptors since the Iran war started, and the drone and missile strikes in the region are further depleting them, according to a report.

Prior to the war, the US had more than 2,700 missiles for the Patriot and anti-ballistic THAAD systems. As of Monday, the supply is fewer than 1,000, the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank said.

While America’s interception rate has been nearly perfect, several Iranian attacks have broken through, with the CSIS warning that diminishing stockpiles may put US soldiers and military bases at risk. *Ronny Reyes, With Wires*

Trump strikes back at Tehran

President Trump made good on his vow Wednesday to “beat the f--king s--t out of” Iran in response to a surprise missile attack by the Islamic Republic targeting US troops stationed in Jordan.

“We’ll be hitting them hard,” Trump told Fox News chief foreign affairs correspondent Trey Yingst in a brief interview early Wednesday. “They’re going to get a beating.”

At 8 p.m., US forces followed through — launching “a heavy wave of strikes against Iran” lasting two hours, US Central Command announced on X.

“CENTCOM assets struck dozens of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targets in Iran, including military command centers, missile and drone facilities, coastal surveillance and defense sites, and maritime capabilities,” the combatant command said in a statement.

At least two people were injured in attacks on the island of Qeshm in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iranian state media.

The latest strikes came after the US and Saudi Arabia already launched joint strikes on Iran-aligned terrorists in Iraq Tuesday following the attempted ambush.

Trump had doubled down on his threat ahead of the mission, saying it was the US’s turn to strike back and that Iran needed to be smacked around a bit.

Ryan King and Emily Goodin

JOSH FELKER
Meta worker "sexted teen."

Grassley reams out Zuck

Sen. Chuck Grassley is demanding answers from Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg after a former company engineer who created "digital experiences for kids" admitted on camera he tried to sext a 13-year-old.

Grassley (R-Iowa), who serves as the Senate's president pro tempore, sent a scathing letter to the Facebook founder after the disturbing confession of engineering manager Josh Felker, who was caught in an undercover sting by Predator Poachers Long Island.

Felker, 44, who was placed on leave from the Facebook parent company, was arrested on July 15 after admitting to the group in a now-viral video that he was grooming and sexting a "teen girl" — who doesn't exist.

"These allegations raise significant questions regarding Meta's internal governance, employee screening, trust and safety culture, and controls for employees," Grassley wrote in the letter, referencing The Post's exclusive reporting on the sting.

"They also raise questions about Meta's processes for identifying, investigating, and responding to employee misconduct," the letter added. *Brandon Cruz*

SLAIN KIDS' PJS TRAUMA

By PRISCILLA DeGREGORY
and GEORGIA WORRELL

Massachusetts mom Lindsay Clancy sobbed repeatedly Wednesday as prosecutors showed the PJs that her three young children wearing when she killed them — and then played the harrowing 911 call her husband made after coming home to tragedy, begging her at one point, "Where are the kids, Lindsay?"

The second day of the trial included the end of husband Patrick Clancy's testimony, as well as gut-wrenching evidence that stunned the courtroom into silence and had even a veteran journalist calling it "truly one of the worst things I've heard in my 43-year career."

Lindsay is pleading insanity and arguing she was suffering postpartum psychosis, for which she never got adequate treatment, when she killed her kids. Prosecutors say her actions betray a calculated killer.

Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Sprague presented the tiny clothing as well as three exercise bands Clancy used to fatally strangle 5-year-old Cora, 3-year-old Dawson and 8-month-old Callan at their Boston area home in January 2023.

Clancy, meanwhile, appeared to turn her head away from cameras and dab her eyes with a tissue during the display.

Patrick Clancy's frantic 911 call was also played for the jury — though only the people in the courtroom heard the harrowing recording after Judge William Sullivan approved Patrick's request for it to not be broadcast to the public last week.

'Where are the kids?'

The father could be heard pleading with his wife to tell him what happened to their children.

"Where are the kids, Lindsay?" Patrick could be heard asking her during the call. "Did you fall out the window, Linds? Did you fall? Is there something on your neck, Lindsay?"

Patrick had come home from running errands to find the house deathly quiet. He discovered his wife, a labor-and-delivery nurse, on her back in their backyard, below the second-floor bedroom window from which she threw herself in a suicide attempt. Her wrists and neck were cut and bloodied.

He then ran inside to find the children strangled in the basement as first responders were arriving.

Patrick could then be heard screaming and saying he needed help in the basement.

"She killed the kids!" he yelled during the call.

Lindsay was sobbing audibly as the call was played and continued to cry as she was wheeled out of the courtroom for a break.

Earlier during Patrick's testimony, he described returning after picking up a medication and takeout at a restaurant on the evening of Jan. 24, 2024. "The house was really quiet," he said.

Patrick called down to the basement and no one answered, so he went upstairs thinking the kids were being bathed — but he still didn't find anyone.

He went to his and Lindsay's bedroom but the door was locked, which was when "I knew something was wrong," he testified.

The dad unlocked the room with a key and saw "blood everywhere" and the window open.

GRIM DISPLAY: Prosecutor Jennifer Sprague displays the pajamas of one of three kids killed by mom Lindsay Clancy (in court crying).

Killer mom breaks down

Photos: AP (2)

Boeing bumpy skies on Air Force One

Boeing announced during an earnings call Tuesday it recently took another massive financial hit as it works to deliver two new Air Force One presidential planes.

The aircraft maker reported an additional $280 million loss related to the long-delayed project — for which cost overruns now exceed $3 billion.

"While the charge is disappointing, we recognize how critical schedule performance is to our customer and we are investing accordingly to maintain our commitment to deliver the airplane in 2028," Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg said.

He attributed the latest loss to the company's decision to "add significant resources to support the build and test schedule" of the two military versions of the Boeing 747, which he said would "help mitigate potential risk during certification and flight test."

Under the terms of the $3.9 billion contract President Trump inked with Boeing in 2018, the defense contractor is responsible for all cost overruns related to the project.

The company now expects to deliver the first aircraft in "mid-2028" and the second by "mid-2029."

Victor Nava

$22B 'Dull'es rebuild

WASHINGTON — President Trump announced a $22.5 billion overhaul of Dulles International Airport, including the removal of "Star Wars"-like people movers.

"[It's] long overdue renovation and reconstruction of Washington's really horribly-thought-of Dulles International Airport," the president said.

Trump has long disparaged the dated airport 20 miles from DC, particularly the people movers.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said they look "like it's from Star Wars . . . and they're slow."

The project will be paid for through a series of bonds and by the airlines.

Emily Goodin

Zo won't keep me out: Bibi

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday vowed to visit New York in September despite "hate-spewing" Mayor Mamdani's call for his arrest for alleged war crimes in Gaza.

"First of all, I'm going to New York," Netanyahu said in an interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity, when asked about Mamdani declaring last week that Netanyahu's "not welcome" in the Big Apple because of the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court in 2024.

"I'm definitely going there," the Israeli prime minister said. "I'm going to speak the truth in front of this hate-spewing elected official who's pitting one group of New Yorkers against the others."

Netanyahu specifically accused Mamdani of turning his supporters "against New York Jews."

"I mean, what are we in the 1930s?" he added. "You know, so much hate, so many lies, and you know the big lie is about the ICC . . . that's a corrupt, evil organization."

Mamdani in a July 21 video admitted he doesn't have the legal authority to arrest Netanyahu should he visit New York — but slammed him as an unwelcome "war criminal." *Victor Nava*

Actress: Ban Mam on 9/11

Actress Patricia Heaton, who was in New York City during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, joined families of the victims in calling for Mayor Mamdani to be banned from the 25th anniversary ceremony at Ground Zero.

The "Everybody Loves Raymond" star, 68, backed the petition organized by families of 9/11 victims, which has amassed almost 45,000 signatures as of Wednesday, to her more than 500,000 followers on X.

"Keep it going New Yorkers," the conservative actress applauded on Monday, while reposting the Change.org petition link.

Heaton's post included a screenshot of a comment left on the petition by a family member who lost their brother in the terror attacks. *Ella Morrison*

ZO DISMISSES

Shrugs at bad pied notices

By MATTHEW FISCHETTI, CARL CAMPANILE, CRAIG McCARTHY and CHRIS NESI

When I ran for
mayor, I said I was going t
e ri

PIED À 'WHAT?' Mayor Mamdani showed no sympathy for ineligible middle-class homeowners hit with pied-à-terre tax notices. The onerous second-home tax was passed into law by Gov. Hochul.

Mayor Mamdani blew off concerns Wednesday from New Yorkers who argue they're being wrongly targeted by the state's new pied-à-terre tax — which Hizzoner claimed for months would only hit wealthy out-of-towners.

Questions have been swirling about how exactly the city determined who would be subject to the newly approved tax, though neither Mamdani nor city Department of Finance Commissioner Richard Lee could provide straight answers.

The mayor had repeatedly insisted only rich owners of secondary homes in New York City would get squeezed by the surcharge, but some full-time residents have cried foul after the DOF mailed them a notice that they "may" be on the hook for an additional five-figure tax bill.

At an unrelated press conference, reporters pressed Mamdani and Lee on whether the DOF should have been more diligent in vetting its mailing list before sending out potentially erroneous notices to longtime locals.

"What I would say is the Department of Finance identified homes that may be subject to the surcharge, as we know this is a surcharge on nonprimary residences that are worth more than $5 million," the mayor said, essentially just reiterating the terms of the new tax.

Bureaucratic nightmare

"As required by the law, the Department of Finance sent informational resources to homeowners to ensure that they understood the tax, that they understood the options before them, and also if they did not believe it to apply to them, that they had the time in order to be able to appeal," he said.

But New Yorkers who believe they are being wrongly charged now have to go through what some have described as a bureaucratic nightmare to appeal the decision — and prove the DOF wrong — by Aug. 21.

Mamdani did not respond when asked later "why should New Yorkers be tasked with fixing this?"

He instead choose to only address another part of that reporter's question, about a searchable database the DOF posted of hundreds of thousands of properties, including the addresses and owners' names, that could be subject to the tax.

Posting the "supplemental tax roll" was required under state law, Mamdani claimed.

DOF leader Lee didn't fare much better in offering an explanation as to how massive tax bills landed in the mailboxes of some everyday New Yorkers.

The tax is meant to apply to one- to three-family homes worth at least $5 million and co-ops and condominiums valued at $1 million or more — that are unoccupied, nonprimary residences, according to legislation approved by Albany lawmakers and Gov. Hochul this spring.

THE RED APPLE

TARGET PRACTICE

NYC Mayor's Office

Maze to navigate

ZACHARY KUSSIN

Yes, I am a Manhattan homeowner and, yes, I live in the city full-time — and, yes, my condo is worth a fraction of what will be subject to Gov. Hochul and Mayor Mamdani's pied-à-terre tax.

Still, with the city's release of the list of properties potentially subject to the levy — documents that totaled hundreds of thousands of names and addresses, a good number of which aren't even second homes — I decided to find out how complicated the city makes it to apply for an "exemption" to the "surcharge," as they so euphemistically phrase it.

If you're a homeowner who has to go through this, I'm sorry. You're going to be tied up in a number of micromanaged directions spread across multiple websites that don't answer many questions at all. It's off-putting and exhausting to the point of making you want to give up.

It all begins with a four-prompt questionnaire.

Among the questions: "Do you use this property as your primary residence?" and "Is the property owned by an LLC, partnership, or corporation and used as a primary residence by one or more individuals who collectively hold a majority interest, or the immediate family member of such individuals?" The middle two questions ask whether a renter uses this home as a primary residence, or if an immediate family member does.

For those who answer yes for that first question, the city — according to the eligibility guide on the "property surcharge" webpage — then requires submission of the most recently filed federal or state tax return to show proof of residence. If there are no tax returns available, the site notes the owner will have to provide other proof of residence, like a driver's license.

The city provides no immediate indication as to how long it will take them to respond — or what the penalties are for not paying up.

If a respondent answers no to all four questions, meaning the city classifies the home as a pied-à-terre, the city then directs the site users to pay the tax on CityPay. Of course, it's not all black and white. What if the home is in probate? What if a local is living in a nursing home? None of those options is available to click. And here's the headache for primary homeowning residents: more and more websites and directions.

Exemption applications are due on Aug. 21 for residential homes — such as townhouses and condos — and Aug. 24 for co-ops. Even that may not be enough time to keep the list of websites and log-in portals organized.

"It could have been that we don't have updated information on the applications, filings, the exemptions, but we did use all the available information that we had in order to determine the residency status," Lee said.

When pressed on why New Yorkers should be saddled with the task of fixing the city's mix-up, Lee confusingly deflected, saying the department had its hands tied by state law requiring property rolls be released twice a year for public inspection.

Neither Mamdani nor his finance department head could say how many notices had been sent out. But City Hall later said the number was 17,000, more than the 10,000-13,000 nonprimary residences that government officials had estimated would be subject to the surcharge.

Biz leaders done being nice with 'dangerous' customer Mamdani

CHARLES GASPARINO

NEW York City business leaders aren't inclined to go to war with Zohran Mamdani — but his latest stunt surrounding the controversial pied-à-terre tax is forcing them to reconsider, On The Money has learned.

This week, our Marxist mayor released the names of taxpayers being subjected to his idiotic levy on owners of apartments worth $5 million or more that are not their primary residences. It's idiotic because these wealthy out-of-state residents don't use our services but nevertheless already pay plenty of state and city taxes — the lion's share in fact. They might decide to buy a place in Boca instead.

It also reeks of the dark and hate-fueled side of Marxist class warfare. Mamdani has created an "enemies list" of rich people he thinks should be paying more taxes — despite the fact they're paying plenty.

Dangerous rhetoric

It's a taste of Lenin and Mao, a public shaming exercise to give his base of DSA loons some red meat while people whose names appear must explain to City Hall why they shouldn't fall into this vortex.

It's also dangerous, according to the business people I spoke to who don't want their names published. When they saw the headlines about "the list," some instantly thought about Brian Thompson, the United Healthcare CEO who was murdered allegedly by a radicalized nut named Luigi Mangione.

Steve Fulop, president of the city's largest business advocacy group, the Partnership for New York City, has been at his wit's end dealing with the demonization of business people and upper-income New Yorkers — who pay most of the taxes here to fund the expansive welfare state Mamdani is constructing.

He's been trying to engage with the mayor and his people, but with the "enemies list" news, he seemed literally resigned to the fact that this is a City Hall that needs to be confronted rather than cajoled.

Accordingly, Fulop is putting together a plan for action. Let's just say it involves building support to elect office holders who will oppose the DSA.

Fulop reminds me that the last target of Mamdani's class warfare campaign surrounding this tax — Ken Griffin, the billionaire head of the Citadel investment empire who was front and center in a "creepy" Mamdani video touting the tax a few months back — can afford 24-7 private security. Most of those who made Mamdani's list may have some means, but they are far from super-rich, and now they're on their own.

"This is a mistake, and a dangerous precedent," Fulop said. "Publishing names and addresses singles out people who have done nothing wrong, at a moment when the far left already treats success itself as something to be punished. Most of the people on that list aren't billionaires by any stretch — they're people that believed in NYC, worked hard and bought a second home. All this does is make people feel less safe in their own city and less welcome in it."

One mainstream Democratic political adviser who believes Mamdani and his radical chic pals will lead the party to ruin says her friends in the business elite are scared and rightfully so. "[Mamdani] is paving the way for a future Luigi psychopath," she told me.

Hey, focus on the city

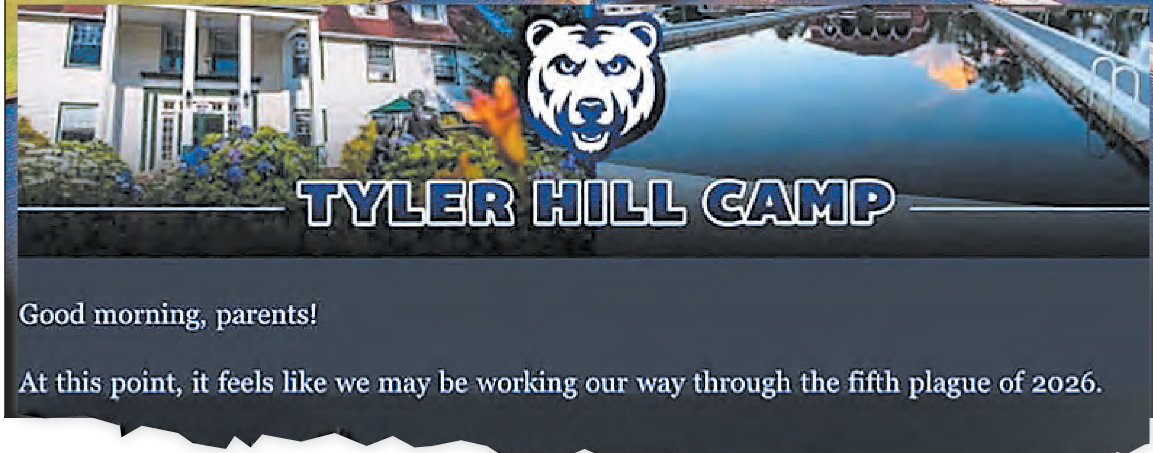
Of course, this one act of stupidity isn't really the point; it's an accumulation of cultural Marxism and Third-Worldism that emanates from an office that is supposed to be in charge primarily of educating kids, picking up garbage and keeping the streets safe.

One day, our 34-year-old mayor is refusing to disavow the leftist rallying call "Globalize the Intifada" that aims to eliminate Israel from the face of the earth. The next, he's musing about arresting Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu for "war crimes" a k a defending his country against Hamas terrorists and forgetting about something known as "diplomatic immunity."

Then there's the economic Marxism: His government grocery store boondoggle won't stop rich people from shopping at Whole Foods, but it will likely put a lot of mom-and-pop bodegas out of business. Guess who pays for the subsidies in a city that already doles out lots to the poor? The working and middle class.

OH, THAT'S 'RETCH'

Tyler Hill Camp



Good morning, parents!

At this point, it feels like we may be working our way through the fifth plague of 2026.

HURL-WIND TOUR: At Tyler Hill Camp, which costs more than $18,000 for the summer, and others like it in the Poconos and Catskills, kids and counselors have been hit with a stomach ailment that results in days of violent vomiting.

Vomit bug hits pricey kids camps

By KYRA BRESLIN

Oh, barf!

Parents who shelled out tens of thousands of dollars to send their children to camp this summer received shocking news from the front this week — several pricey sleepaway spots in the Poconos and Catskills were spiraling after a nasty stomach bug swept through the secluded sites, sending kiddies and counselors legging it to the latrines.

Families routinely spend roughly $19,000 per child, per year, for seven weeks of waterskiing, lifelong friendships and championship games. But nobody budgets for projectile vomiting. The final two weeks each summer are supposed to be about color war — not sanitation wars.

Frustrated parents who spoke to The Post anonymously, allege the outbreak began at Tyler Hill, a 7-week-long camp in Wayne County, Pa., shortly after visiting day in mid-July.

The camp, which is home to nearly 500 campers from June to August charges $18,475 for a summer season.

"I've been told somewhere in the realm of half the camp has gotten it," one parent told The Post. "They ran out of beds in the health center; they ran out of toilets to throw up in."

Nothing bonds East Coast camp parents quite like a crisis.

Screenshots of camp emails and text chains circulated faster than the stomach bug itself. Reports of bunkhouses being thrown into chaos. Infirmaries oversubscribed. And some campers are fleeing the scene to recover back at home.

Drama bomb

But what might normally have stayed confined to whispered parent group chats has instead exploded into a full-blown sleepaway-camp scandal. Anonymous Instagram accounts devoted to camp gossip have posted tips, turning the ugly event into arguably the biggest drama of the summer.

Andy Siegel, the owner of Tyler Hill, sent an email to parents, assuring them that the illness had generally run its course within 24 to 36 hours after he fell ill himself — but would "not recommend firsthand research."

The camp's director even tried to inject a bit of tongue-in-cheek humor into the situation by declaring it felt like the camp had survived "the fifth plague of 2026," after battling heat, rain, Canadian wildfire smoke and the diarrhea lettuce scare.

"And apparently," he wrote, "it was a stomach bug."

Timber Lake Camp, located in the nearby Catskills and charges $18,225 for the summer, told parents their Health Center has had 15 campers and staff with gastrointestinal symptoms and a handful of campers who have also gone home for 2-3 days.

"At first, given the volume of food that was left here from Visiting Day, we thought it to be just a matter of campers gorging themselves, as usual," the email from the directors said.

However, as vomit ensued, it was surmised that the bug likely came from a basketball intercamp invitational, with several other camps reporting outbreaks.

Puking stations on both the boys and girls campuses have been set up with protective masks, gear, and supplies to deal with what administrators delicately described as "any messes which may arise."

At Trail's End, another co-ed camp located in Beach Lake, Pa., that costs $18,625 per season, parents told The Post that following a lacrosse tournament at Tyler Hill, 7 campers came down with the pukes.

Tyler Hill, Timber Lake, and Trail's End did not respond to The Post's request for comment.

HS team hazing horror

Ten members of a Pennsylvania high school football team, including four coaches, have been charged in a brutal hazing scandal that led to the cancellation of the season after a player was stomped with cleats and prodded in the buttocks with a broomstick.

The players and coaches from the Cheltenham High School allegedly assaulted a 15-year-old teammate in the locker room in two separate incidents in 2025, the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office announced Wednesday.

The first alleged incident was recorded by two players on Aug. 15, 2025, and shared with students during the fall semester, according to prosecutors.

While the team changed into street clothes after practice, the shocking footage showed several players holding their sophomore teammate down while another player used a broomstick to poke at the boy's buttocks, according to a grand jury filing.

Multiple witnesses saw several players kicking or stopping on the victim during a second incident on Sept. 3, 2025.

The same juvenile from the first incident again used a broomstick to poke at his butt. *Zoe Hussain*

Couple hard to believe

A 32-year-old woman and a 75-year-old man who were busted for allegedly having loud sex in front of children at an apartment complex pool in Texas gave cops a ridiculous explanation for the romp they claimed never happened.

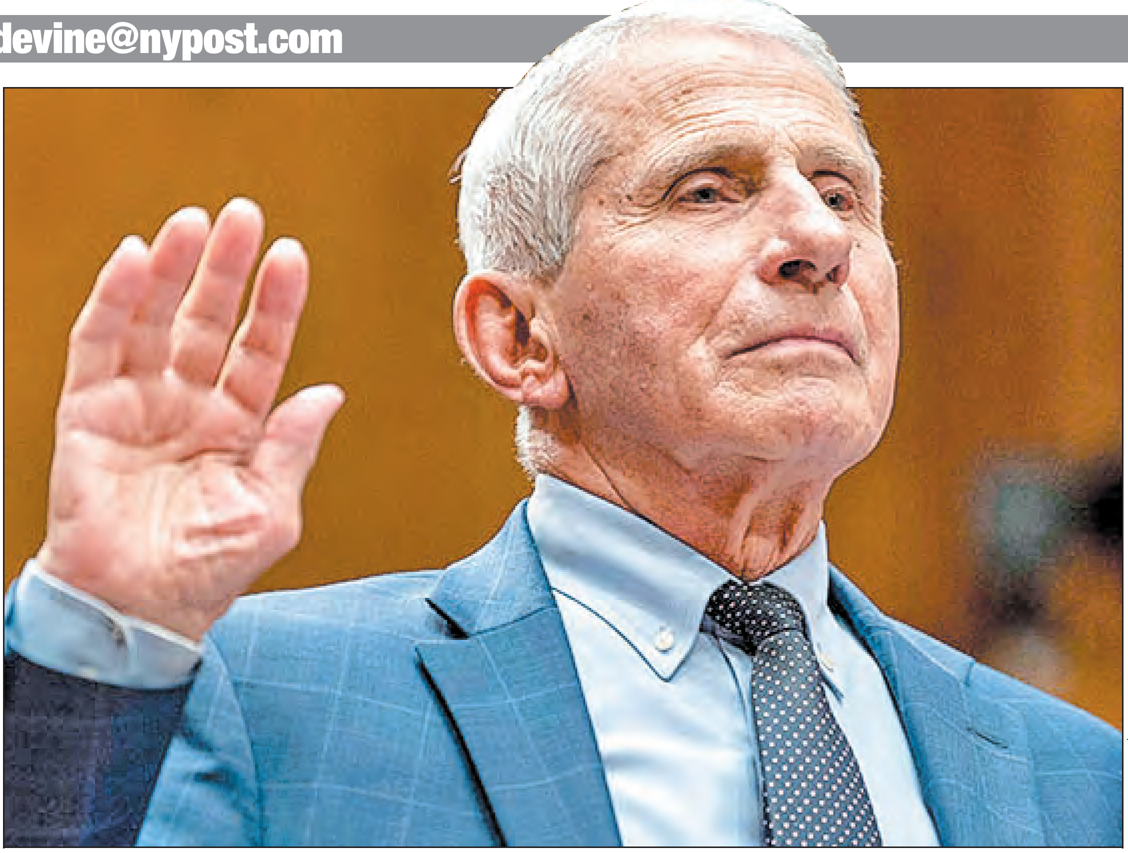
Emilie Parma was allegedly on top of Douglas Faith, "grinding and thrusting" and making loud sexual moans at a Waco apartment complex Sunday.

When cops arrived, Faith confessed that Parma was on top of him but claimed they were not actually having sex because he has a "penile implant," police said. *Patrick Reilly*

Miranda Devine

mdevine@nypost.com

Cowardly case of yellow fever



UPI / Shutterstock

WHAT a cowardly and shameful final chapter for Dr. Anthony Fauci, who pleaded the Fifth 111 times in the Senate Wednesday even though he has a pre-emptive presidential pardon that gives him immunity from prosecution.

In the history of Congress, only a couple of mob bosses have invoked the privilege more.

"On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer, based upon my rights, under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution," the Machiavellian career bureaucrat said over and over in the nearly three-hour hearing before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

But Fauci's silence rendered him a villain more powerfully than his usual sly deceptions.

Shameful, too, were the Democrats and their media handmaidens who continue to run cover for Fauci, singing his praises, and denying their flock the truth about a man who filled his pandemic diary with self-praise and celebrity worship while remaining callously aloof from the human suffering he had caused.

Fauci on Wednesday was comforted by the praise of Democrat senators who hailed him as a hero, thanked him for his "service to this nation" and sympathized with him as a "scapegoat" of right-wing conspiracy theorists.

New Jersey Sen. Andy Kim even quoted Theodore Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech to valorize Fauci, the former top US infectious-disease expert who led the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for decades.

Like the Black Knight in "Monty Python," still pugnacious after being reduced to a bloody stump, the Fauci puffers refuse to see they have no leg left to stand on.

The damage their censorship did during COVID, and their dishonest glossing of Fauci's reputation, damns them. Yet instead of self-reflection in the face of overwhelming evidence of Fauci's complicity in one of the deadliest man-made health crises in history, they double down. History will not be kind to them, either.

"Admit it was a mistake to fund dangerous research in China," said Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), the Fauci nemesis who leads the committee and is also a medical doctor who has closely studied the virus and the way it was engineered to hurt humans.

"Admit that the risk of this dangerous research exceeded any possible benefits. Ask forgiveness, and pledge to help our government devise safeguards, so a man-made epidemic never happens again."

Monstrous sins

There is no defending Fauci. His sins are too monstrous. The children locked out of school, the grandparents who died alone, the families torn apart, remain on his conscience.

We would wish him jail, yet he is unlikely to receive the punishment he has earned for directing tax dollars toward the dangerous gain-of-function research on bat coronaviruses in a Chinese lab that unleashed a pandemic that killed millions, and for the coverup and associated lockdown he helped orchestrate.

"All he had to do was tell the truth," Paul said after the hearing, vowing to hold Fauci in contempt of Congress — the same charge that sent Trump advisers Steve Bannon and Peter Navarro to jail.

At 85, Fauci may escape earthly justice, but his legacy is forever fouled, and the name Fauci will become "a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples," to quote the Bible.

Still, the hearing proved oddly satisfying. It was a long overdue public defenestration.

To watch Fauci, sociopath that he must be, sit there rigidly enduring a cold recitation of his sins from Paul and Senate colleagues was cathartic.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) detailed the human cost of Fauci's lies. Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) summed up Fauci's legacy "not as the man who saved America from COVID, but as a man who destroyed the public trust in America's public health institutions in exchange for five minutes of fame [to] fuel your own ego and be the center of attention."

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) delivered the mocking coup de grace: "Nothing says honesty like taking the Fifth, huh, Doc?" and forced Fauci into the humiliation of pleading the Fifth rather than answering what color his tie is, what day it is, what color is the carpet in front of him.

The public gallery applauded when Paul threw out Fauci's arrogant criminal lawyer, David Schertler, who seemed to think he could rebut the senators by proxy. Paul made a point of saying Fauci had a half a dozen lawyers still there to represent him. Who is paying?

As we watch Fauci's downfall in real time, we recognize the echo of all the epic comeuppances of mythology and literature. His diary reminds us of the villainess of the French novel "Dangerous Liaisons," the Marquise de Merteuil, an aristocratic widow whose evil manipulations and true character are exposed when her private letters are released for all society to see. It's confirmation that there is a moral accounting for us all.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Great Barrington Declaration heroes, Doctors Jay Bhattacharya, Martin Kulldorff and Sunetra Gupta, who spoke up when it was dangerous and whom Fauci tried to destroy.

Musk's open portal

Elon Musk deserves mention for turning X into an open portal that bypassed the dishonest media narrative.

We owe particular thanks to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose doggedness unearthed Fauci's diary. "It took us about eight months to dig these out of 11 separate servers where they had been sequestered and secreted," he told Laura Ingraham on Fox News. RFK Jr.'s 2021 bestseller "The Real Anthony Fauci," the first exposé on Fauci, has stood the test of time.

In his diaries, Fauci cursorily recorded death tolls alongside lavish details of the praise he received from celebrities and from political operatives posing as journalists who sent him private messages throughout 2020 egging him on to undermine President Trump, feeding Fauci's narcissism.

Their names are there for all to see their eternal shame: 41 mentions of supportive check-ins and "friendship building" dinners with Jake Tapper of CNN. Dana Bash, also of CNN, texted Fauci that he was a "better man" than Republican Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio). George Stephanopoulos of ABC texted "thank you, Tony. So impressive," after Fauci clapped back at Trump's criticism of him as a "fraud."

Dr. Scott Atlas is another unsung hero and victim of Fauci's vindictiveness. Brought in late by Trump in his first administration to challenge the COVID-19 Task Force groupthink under VP Mike Pence, Atlas was surprised to find he was the only one citing actual scientific data. He argued against the lockdowns and for focused protection of the elderly, but he was treated as a crank.

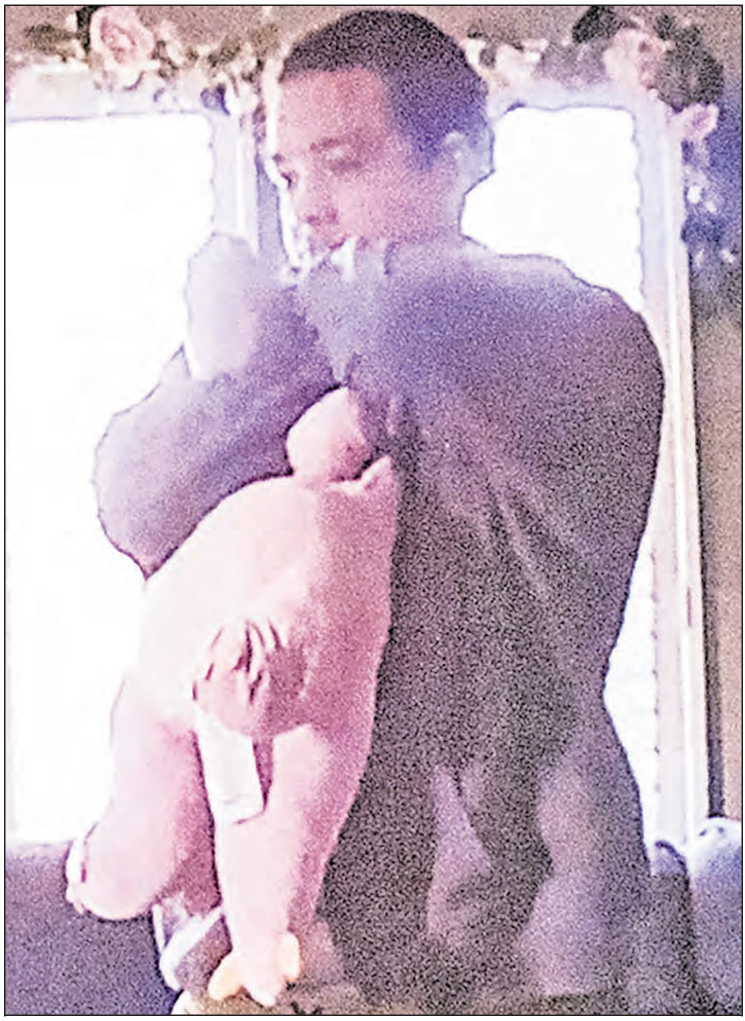
"I've never worked with such low-level people," he later said of Fauci, Dr. Deborah Birx, and then-CDC Director Robert Redfield.

The villains and heroes of the pandemic are starting to come into focus. In the end, character is destiny.

Stuffed animal before sis-in-law: DA

LI 'SLAY CHOKE' PRACTICE

By KEVIN SHEEHAN
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON



Instagram/@vooozaa (inset)

ICY: Joseph Horner is seen on video choking a stuffed animal, a move he allegedly then used to kill sister-in-law Victoria Castle (inset).

A sick Long Island music teacher accused of raping and killing his college coed sister-in-law was caught on camera practicing the chokehold he would use in the grisly crime on a stuffed animal, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Joseph Horner, 27, repeatedly broke into the downstairs apartment of 25-year-old Victoria Castle to check out "explicit photos" of his wife's sister before carrying out the gruesome June 28 attack, Nassau County prosecutors said as they unsealed a murder indictment against Horner.

"This defendant saw an opportunity to follow through on his sexual desires to be with the victim, a woman he admitted to lusting over since 2017," Assistant District Attorney Alexander DePalo said in court. "He is seen on video practicing the chokehold that he would place her in.

"The defendant, without warning and unprovoked, attacked the victim from behind and placed her in the same chokehold until her body went limp," DePalo said. "The defendant then removed her clothes and moved her to a nearby bed, at which time the defendant raped the victim until he completed.

"Then he waited for the police on the front doorstep, calm and collected," the prosecutor said. Police arrested Horner at the scene and rushed Castle to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Horner's wife, who had been away on a bachelorette trip at the time, sat in court sobbing Wednesday, comforted by her parents as her husband pleaded not guilty. The accused killer, a music teacher in the Oceanside School District, was ordered held without bail by Nassau County Judge Howard Sturim.

Castle, a doctoral student at Stony Brook University, lived downstairs from Horner and her sister in the North Oak Street home in North Massapequa.

Prosecutors said the accused killer lured her to her death by asking her to help him move a keyboard — but instead ambushed her from behind and allegedly carried out the attack.

Eerie FaceTime call

Just 15 minutes before the alleged attack, Horner practiced the chokehold on a stuffed animal and took a FaceTime call from his wife after rendering Castle unconscious, acting as if everything was normal before he proceeded to rape his sister-in-law, prosecutors said.

"During that call, the defendant acted as if nothing was wrong, as if he hadn't just violently attacked her sister," Nassau County DA Anne Donnelly told reporters. "As if Victoria's body wasn't lying motionless just a floor below."

Prosecutors also released a photo of Horner allegedly practicing the chokehold on a pink stuffed animal in his living room before the attack.

In a tragic twist, Castle beamed over her killer after he married her sister, three years before the sick attack.

"My sister, my person, my partner in chaos, is now married to one of the most wonderful people in the world," Castle wrote in a haunting Facebook post. "I love you both forever."

Wells family subpoena his online data

Nolan Wells' family has issued subpoenas to several social media companies seeking his account information and data as part of the investigation into the 18-year-old college football player's mysterious death.

The subpoenas, issued Tuesday, seek information from Wells' accounts on Snapchat, WhatsApp, TikTok, Meta Platforms and the location-tracking app Life360, according to court documents obtained by the Sun Herald.

The subpoenas request the companies turn over all materials and information related to Wells' accounts, including current and prior user names and passwords, email addresses, phone numbers and display names.

The family also demanded all IP addresses associated with the accounts and all communications, including chats, posts, stories, and other information, according to the Sun Herald.

Wells' cellphone has become a key concern in the probe into his death.

His mom, Christine Wonsley, said that when her son's phone was returned to the family, they had concerns after finding no pictures or videos on his two Snapchat accounts, calling it "suspicious" and triggering fears that content may have been deleted.

Wells had boated to Horn Island off the Mississippi Coast on the Fourth of July but never came back with his friends. *Patrick Reilly*

Platner posts scrubbed

Newly minted Maine Democratic Senate nominee Troy Jackson frantically deleted almost all of his past social media posts heaping praise on accused rapist Graham Platner, The Post has learned.

Jackson, a former lumberjack and onetime Maine Senate president, was a staunch Platner backer until a former girlfriend publicly accused Platner, a Marine veteran and dilettante oyster farmer, of sexual assault earlier this month.

In all, the 58-year-old Jackson appears to have scrubbed at least 20 posts boosting Platner before the allegations emerged, based on information from the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.

"Graham Platner is exactly the sort of Democrat that Susan Collins and the Republican Party don't know how to handle. It's why I endorsed him back in February, and it's why I support him now," Jackson posted on X in May.

Jackson was then vying for the Democratic nomination for governor. After finishing third in the ranked-choice voting primary, Jackson's ties to the far left and endorsement by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) led Democrats to eye him as a replacement for Platner after he dropped out of the Senate race earlier this month. *Ryan King*

Kiser rip for life-vest nix

Mommy influencer Emilie Kiser has been forced to apologize and vowed to "do better" after a video circulated social media showing her 16-month-old son on a boat without a life jacket — one year after her 3-year-old son Trigg drowned in their family pool.

The clip — uploaded and subsequently deleted by Kiser's friend and fellow influencer Madi Curtis this week — drew intense backlash online after it appeared to show Theodore "Teddy" Kiser sitting without a life jacket alongside his father, Brady Kiser, on a boat during a family vacation in Spain last month. *Georgia Worrell*

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Grounded flights of fancy

AISLE seat you in court! An $18,000-a-summer Maine sleepaway camp chartered private jets to ferry campers and their parents to the wilderness retreat.

But they might have been better off rounding up some yellow buses for the ride to the far Northeast — because Page Six has learned that the camp is now suing the air company for allegedly failing to provide the planes.

Camp Laurel and its parent company, Coastal Camps Inc., filed suit against White Plains Aviation Partners, which does business as Million Air White Plains, on Monday, claiming that the firm owes it at least $355,000 for alleged "breach of contract, negligent supervision [and] unjust enrichment."

Court papers reviewed by Page Six show the camp alleges the company failed to honor its agreements, and didn't return the money after the flights fell through.

Camp Laurel, on the banks of Echo Lake in the Belgrade Lakes region, bills itself as a "premiere American summer camp." It offers 15 tennis courts; regulation-size fields for baseball, soccer and lacrosse; five regulation basketball courts; a roller hockey arena; a beach volleyball court; an indoor gymnastics center; and a fitness center.

There's also a stable and miles of woodland trails; two outdoor equestrian sand arenas; studios for art, ceramics and metalsmithing; a 2,500-square-foot dance center; a FM radio station; a movie theater; and a professionally equipped theater with a full-sized stage.

As The Post previously reported, some parents shell out more than $20,000 per child for such elite camps in Maine and beyond. They then spend thousands more on designer camp gear, concierge packing services and even private jet charters to ferry their kids to the woods.

Some parents told The Post they viewed the expense as an investment. "The crown jewel of these sleepaway camps is the alumni parent network that you can tap into," one said.

Page Six has reached out to Camp Laurel and Million Air for comment.

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Ye sex suit settled

KANYE West and his former personal assistant **Lauren Pisciotta** have reached a settlement over her sexual harassment lawsuit against him, Page Six can confirm. West and Pisciotta settled the suit on July 23, according to court docs her lawyers submitted to a Los Angeles court Tuesday. The filing, obtained by Page Six yesterday, states the settlement is "unconditional" and a request for dismissal will be filed within 45 days. Further details were not disclosed. TMZ was the first to report the news. Pisciotta sued the disgraced rapper in June 2024, claiming he sent her vulgar texts and allegedly locked them in a room together and masturbated next to her. West fired her in 2022. Page Six has reached out to his reps.

Sparring partner

GIULIANA Rancic spilled on her "traumatizing" romance with her "cold" ex **Jerry O'Connell** — days after he dished about their breakup to **Kelly Ripa**. Rancic (above) accused him of "downplaying" their relationship in his "Let's Talk Off Camera" interview. "For a year and a half — except for the one breakup — we were together 24/7 every day, every night," she said on her "Bill and Giuliana" podcast yesterday. "You could listen to his interview and think . . . he was dating a bunch of girls, but no. It was a real relationship." They dated from 2003 to 2004.

"Spotted" in the big city! Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is right at home in the West Village thanks to her chic Helsa dress.

Aeon/GC Images

Getting your kicks

ATTENTION sneakerheads: **Eminem** is selling over 100 pairs of shoes from his personal collection. The kicks are all signed by the star and will be sold to benefit the Marshall Mathers Foundation, which helps disadvantaged youth. Julien's Auctions is putting on the sale on Aug. 25, and bidding has opened. One highlight is a pair of Eminem x Nike Air Jordan 3 "Slim Shady" PE promo sneakers, estimated to go for up to $35,000.

Sightings

GALE Brophy turning **Meredith Marks**' brunch at Maison Close Southampton into a party, climbing onto the tables to dance alongside burlesque performers as guests cheered . . . **WOODY Allen** and **Soon-Yi Previn** walking arm-in-arm on 72nd and 2nd . . . WEWORK founder **Adam Neumann** and freed Israeli hostage **Omer Shem Tov** performing the Jewish ritual of wrapping tefillin during a performance by Israeli artists **Adam Ten** and **Mita Gami** at Surf Lodge.

Meet Handsy Smurf

A Hamptonite was surprised when a stranger made an *off-color* joke while grabbing a treat in Sag Harbor — and even more surprised when the stranger happened to be next to a famed journalist. A source tells us that at Big Olaf Ice Cream, a customer walked out with a blue mouth from frosting, and a guy in line made a crack about the customer ending up in that state by performing a sexual act on a Smurf. While we hear the joke made everyone laugh, the messy man barely took notice of it because he recognized who was next to the jokester. "Wait, are you **Don Lemon**?" he said. Indeed he was. Lemon (above) was surprised when we called him about it, insisting he didn't make the joke and saying, "I didn't realize Smurfs were a protected class."

Grammys category BS to BTS

THE band BTS is taking a bold stand against the Grammys over a controversial new category. Last month, the Recording Academy announced the Best Asian Pop Music Performance category will be introduced at the 2027 ceremony. It "recognizes artistic excellence in Asian pop music performances originating from or widely recognized within Asian markets . . . with meaningful use of one or more Asian languages." But yesterday, all seven BTS members — **Jin**, **Suga**, **J-Hope**, **RM**, **Jimin**, **V** and **Jung Kook** — posted on their individual Instagram Stories they're not submitting themselves for consideration. "We have decided not to enter the Grammys this year," the message reads in Korean. "I hope music itself can be heard and loved rather than being distinguished by region or language." The boy band, which in 2020 became the first K-pop act to receive a Grammy nomination, was expected to be nominated again for their March album, "Arirang." Grammys CEO **Harvey Mason Jr**. had said the new categories — including Best Latin Song, Best R&B Collaboration, Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance and Best Traditional Folk Album — "speak to the breadth of today's music industry."

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Consulting a suburb sage

Cindy Adams

GINA Barreca. University of Connecticut English lit prof. Talks faster than a zit pops on your chin. Her book, published by Woodhall Press in Norwalk, is "Gina School." Subhead: "Not what they teach you; it's what you learn." Like:

"Years connect back to your youth. Or move you along towards death. Remember to change the clocks."

"24-karat gold's handy. In a pinch you could always pawn your own head."

"Wisdom's not like getting your period. Or finding a product that helps acid reflux. Doesn't happen with age."

"Falling for a guy with only one eye — you'll rationalize 'But he never forgets my birthday.' "

"Forget growing where you're planted. What are you, an endive?"

"Perspective. Broken heart? At least it's not a broken leg."

"Life infused with courage doesn't rule out life laced with fear. Brave and scared walk arm-in-arm."

"Flat tummy, toned arms, thin thighs make us feel better when all it really takes is a martini and cheese snacks."

We spoke and she said: "I'm doing what I've done since I could afford to pay for therapy — and that was my attempt to find justification for existence."

And she said: "This is like notes behind Erma Bombeck's shopping list. Like instructions from Ann Landers, Virginia Woolf, Dorothy Parker," and, she said, "Elle magazine."

Understand, I'm not the greedy type to bring it up or anything, but — me, she didn't include.

Doc looks for the plane truth

A new documentary about failures at Boeing lands on Netflix next month.

Netflix

WHAT goes up, must come down. **Ron Howard** and **Brian Grazer** brought their new doc on Boeing to Netflix. "Freefall: A Reckoning for Boeing" takes off Aug. 19. Director **Rory Kennedy**.

Like airlines haven't enough problems now. It's whistleblowers, old parts, doors fly off at 10,000 feet. Sounds bumpy. Fasten your seat belt.

Family union

ON the other side: Mouths "report" **Eric Roberts** uninvited to daughter **Emma**'s wedding to **Cody John** because sister **Julia** didn't want him there. Don't believe the BS.

Eric: "Not true. Never was true. We're fine. We have disagreements as people do, but we like and respect each other very much."

Now: back to whatever important thing you were doing.

Home cooked

LIVE in Connecticut? Around Greenwich? Then schlep about to find master builder **Jordan Saper**. Besides throwing together mansions, his side hustle is he cooks. While waiting for your ceiling to dry, this contractor/architect can also throw together dinner. Like with one contract he put up a wall, but while plastering also threw together with vittles he personally brought along — a gallon of home-made gazpacho and smoked ribs.

However, if you're only doing a cheapo annex, don't bitch. He might only arrive with a brisket.

THIS actor walked into the restaurant with his dog. The maitre handed the actor the menu. Actor: "I'm not alone. It's service for two." When the waiter presented him with the check the guy yelled: "You nuts? Don't you understand anything?! I'm his guest!"

Only in New York, kids, for sure, only in New York.

My joke to Ep in poor taste: att'y

Kathryn Ruemmler, a former top lawyer at Goldman Sachs and White House counsel under ex-President Barack Obama, admitted to House lawmakers that she joked with Jeffrey Epstein about his conviction of soliciting a minor for prostitution in a 2016 email exchange.

RUEMMLER

Ruemmler, who resigned from Goldman Sachs this year after her extensive communications with the sex fiend were released by the Justice Department, told the House Oversight Committee the joke — "Best massage ever, but not your kind of massage" — was made in "extraordinarily poor taste," according to a transcript of her July 15 testimony released Wednesday.

"I certainly knew that he had pled guilty to two prostitution-related offenses and . . . that conduct involved sexualized massages," Ruemmler acknowledged.

"So what I was making here was an offhanded joke that, certainly sitting here in 2026, is in extraordinarily poor taste, but it was a joke about his prior criminal history," she continued.

Ruemmler, 55, explained that the "best massage ever" took place at The Peninsula in Manhattan, after Epstein gifted her "a half spa day" at the five-star hotel.

"I wish I never dealt with the guy," she added. *Victor Nava*

'No pardon' for Maxwell

The Senate unanimously agreed on Wednesday that sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell should not be allowed a presidential pardon or clemency.

The resolution was introduced by Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) to prevent the president from granting "a pardon, commutation, or any other form of executive clemency" to Maxwell, the accomplice and occasional girlfriend of dead pedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

The resolution is not binding, but signals to the Trump administration that Senate Republicans and Democrats oppose clemency for Maxwell, 64, who is serving a 20-year federal prison sentence after being convicted in late 2021.

Zoe Hussain

ZUMAPRESS.com

Pugh's a real 'Spider' insider

Our Spidey cameo senses are tingling, as Florence Pugh hits Wednesday's London premiere of "Spider-Man: Brand New Day," with rumors flying the actress from the Marvel film "Black Widow" shows up in the film.

AI GAIN $UPER SIZED

Tops McD, S'bucks

By ANTHONY BLAIR

Do you want AIs with that?

Artificial intelligence giants Anthropic and OpenAI are now generating more cash than McDonald's or Starbucks — as the AI boom dwarfs traditional American corporate giants.

Anthropic — maker of the Claude AI tool — is on track to bring in $71 billion in the next year, with OpenAI expected to have $49 billion in annual revenue, Axios reported.

Starbucks is forecast to generate $37.2 billion in the same time period, and McDonald's is set to sell $29.6 billion worth of Big Macs and fries, according to a study that took data from AI investment research platform Funda.

The data shows that AI's two largest brands are expected to generate almost as much revenue as McDonald's, Starbucks, and Taco Bell and KFC parent company Yum Brands combined.

The data shows just how colossal the AI spending boom is across corporate America — as companies invest hundreds of billions to modernize their operations and build AI into their workflow.

Anthropic, which was founded only five years ago, has raised more than $100 billion, and was valued at $965 billion as of May, according to the company's own figures.

Growing fast

The company has secured major commercial customers across finance, healthcare and technology, while growing existing partnerships with cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services and Google Cloud, Reuters reported.

OpenAI also recently expanded its ChatGPT Enterprise program, as well as signing agreements with businesses seeking AI-powered productivity software.

Starbucks and McDonald's both trace their history back decades, and have more than 80,000 worldwide locations between them. But that appears to be no match for the astonishing speed at which businesses have adopted AI technologies. *With Wires*

Brave barracuda girl

A teen girl needs surgery after she was bitten by a barracuda during her birthday trip to Turks and Caicos.

Claire Macdonel was doing a handstand in shallow water just days after her 13th birthday when the predatory saltwater fish suddenly sank its teeth into her hand, KHOU11 TV reported.

"I just looked up from my hand, and I just saw blood everywhere. It was running through my whole arm, and it was just like a horror movie," she said.

Claire said the ordeal has not frightened her into giving up her dream of becoming a marine biologist.

"Just because one bite happened, it doesn't change that I love animals and want to study them," said Claire, who named the fish Suzie.

Zoe Hussain

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Spotlight

A FORUM FOR OUR PARTNERS

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF ABA:HOW THE PERFECT CHILD ABA IS EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CLINICIANS

Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, and for families navigating the unique challenges of autism, finding the right support is a journey of hope and progress. With approximately 1 in 31 children now receiving an autism diagnosis, the demand for high-quality, evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy has never been more vital. At the core of this therapy are Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), the licensed clinicians responsible for assessing, planning, and supervising client care. This rising demand is being constrained by a critical nationwide shortage of BCBAs, which is leaving many families struggling to access essential care.

Founded by Simcha Bendet, The Perfect Child ABA is a leading provider operating in over 30 states and is meeting this rising demand not just by growing, but by innovating. While many organizations rely on external recruitment to fill vital roles, The Perfect Child ABA is tackling the nationwide BCBA shortage by intentionally developing and retaining talent from within. By launching a dedicated Advancement Program, the company is fundamentally transforming the professional trajectory of the therapists who serve on the front lines, ensuring a sustainable pipeline of high-quality care.

Because BCBAs are the essential, highly trained supervisors responsible for overseeing client care, the current shortage creates a significant bottleneck. The backbone of any ABA practice is its Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) and Behavior Technicians (BTs), who rely on this expert supervision to deliver the direct, day-to-day services families depend on. However, advancing from an RBT to a BCBA requires a rigorous path that includes graduate school and a fieldwork requirement of 1,500 to 2,000 hours. For many, this path can feel daunting without the right support structure.

The Perfect Child ABA's Advancement Program is designed to remove those barriers by providing a comprehensive, unique support ecosystem that extends far beyond standard fieldwork hours. Under the direction of Program Director Valisa "Vee" Williams, the program offers:

- **Structured Mentorship:** Dedicated guidance to navigate the complexities of board certification.
- **University Partnerships:** Strategic collaborations with leading institutions like Endicott College and Purdue, offering employees exclusive benefits and academic guidance.
- **Holistic Development:** Comprehensive leadership development and rigorous exam preparation resources.
- **Ongoing Support:** A culture of lifelong learning that ensures clinicians feel confident and supported at every stage of their career.

By investing in its people, The Perfect Child ABA creates a ripple effect of quality. When clinicians are supported in their growth, it fosters stronger, more cohesive clinical teams. This investment directly translates to better continuity of care for the children and families served, as the therapists who already know and love those families are the ones stepping into leadership roles.

Chris Padovano, Director of Staffing at The Perfect Child ABA, explains that this initiative was born out of a dual necessity: maintaining a high standard of care while nurturing existing talent.

> ***"With high demand across the country for BCBA's and The Perfect Child ABA's drive to continue providing excellent services to our families in need, we needed to find new ways to grow our pipeline of BCBAs. This advancement program gives us the ability to give back to our wonderful team of RBT's and continue offering positive experiences to both our staff and families."***

The impact is best understood through the stories of the clinicians participating in the program. For RBTs like Alondra Jefferson, the program has been a catalyst for professional transformation. "The Advancement Program has provided me with the guidance, supervision, and resources I need to grow professionally," Jefferson shared. "Knowing I have a structured program that supports my development has made pursuing BCBA certification feel both achievable and rewarding."

Ultimately, the company's success is measured by the progress of the children it serves and the strength of its clinical team. Founder Simcha Bendet believes that the company's growth is linked to the well-being and success of its therapists.

> ***"The wonderful reviews and heartfelt feedback we receive from families are a reflection of the dedication and compassion of our therapists. They are truly the heart and soul of The Perfect Child ABA. Providing opportunities for them to grow professionally and advance their careers is our way of saying thank you for the incredible difference they make in the lives of the children and families we serve."***

Since its inception, The Perfect Child ABA has focused on serving children and young adults from 18 months to 26 years old. With home-based and community-based services that prioritize accessibility, The Perfect Child ABA offers evening and weekend options and more importantly, no waitlists.

As the Advancement Program continues to evolve, it stands as a testament to what is possible when an organization chooses to invest in its greatest asset: its people. By turning the challenge of the BCBA shortage into an opportunity for RBTs to advance their careers, The Perfect Child ABA is not only building a pipeline of future leaders but is also ensuring that the children and communities they support receive the highest quality of care for years to come.

For more information about The Perfect Child ABA and services provided, or to explore how to take the next step in your own career, visit the **tpcaba.com/advancement** to learn more.

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Finding relief in a flash

Luxury vacations for treating menopause

MIDLIFE RETREAT: Women are finding relief from menopause symptoms like hot flashes at resorts with programs that specialize in such care.

Carillon Wellness Resort

By RACHEL KHONA

Sweltering Miami might not seem like the obvious choice of a vacation destination for a woman battling hot flashes.

But menopausal women on the hunt for some relief from the deeply unglamorous chaos of midlife hormones are now willing to pack their roller bags — yes, even for a trip to Florida — to get some answers and personalized care.

Forget white-knuckling it in silence. Now, at places like Carillon Wellness Resort in Miami Beach, menopause comes with a robe, an ocean view and a plan.

Once relegated to jokes and hushed whispers, menopause and perimenopause have become hot topics in recent years thanks in part to honest conversations from stars like Halle Berry, Naomi Watts and Drew Barrymore.

Women are done treating menopause like some secret bodily betrayal. They are talking about the shift in their bodies more openly — and expecting actual answers.

The bad news is that menopause is often overlooked in traditional medical training. So when women come to their doctors looking for solutions to symptoms like hot flashes, brain fog and fatigue, the answers they receive frequently fall short.

“Most medical schools and residency programs do not require [menopause education],” said Dr. Maria Uloko, a urologist, sexual health specialist, founder of MUMD Sexual Medicine Beverly Hills and CEO of VULVAi, a digital healthcare company building the infrastructure of pelvic health. “So we have an entire physician workforce that does not know how to diagnose, treat or even look for these symptoms.”

With an extra dose of pampering, luxury hotels and resorts are looking to fill the gap.

There is no single template for a menopause retreat. Some programs lean clinical, others are more spa-driven, and many fall somewhere in between.

Booked through resort

At Carillon Miami Wellness Resort, the Inner Glow menopause and perimenopause retreat starts at $3,500 for four nights and includes diagnostic testing, hormonal consultations and customized treatment plans through The Biostation.

There’s also a fitness assessment designed to address common concerns associated with midlife health, plus amenities like a hydrotherapy circuit, massages, red light therapy, IV infusions, facials, a fitness assessment, biocell recharger session and a consult with a member of the biostation team.

Unlike some retreats built around set group dates, Inner Glow is a five-day, four-night individualized program that guests can book through the resort.

Tammy Pahel, vice president of spa and wellness operations at Carillon Miami Wellness Resort, told The Post that the genesis of the program came out of what guests were already requesting: “They were asking things like, ‘Do you have anything for this symptom?’ Or, ‘I’m experiencing this symptom. Do you have something that can help?’ ”

Canyon Ranch in Lenox, Mass., also takes a comprehensive approach with its M/Power menopause and perimenopause retreats, starting at $5,500 for three nights. They include a women’s hormone panel, DEXA body composition and bone density analysis, virtual physician consultation, group programming, and meals — plus access to daily wellness activities like hydrotherapy, CR vitality recovery, group fitness classes and a full salon.

For a slightly less clinical experience, Miraval Arizona in Tucson starts at $799 per night and offers customizable women’s wellness programming focused on sexual health, menopause education, pelvic floor strengthening and sleep improvement, with classes like “Making Sense of Menopause” and “Better Sleep in Menopause.”

“It’s an opportunity to tune into not only how we survive this stage, but also how we can find pleasure and joy in our day to day lives,” Lyndi Rivers, an integrative wellness expert and sexuality educator at Miraval, previously told The Post. “This is the stage of life in which we need to get almost fierce about our own self care, as well as adding in a lot of kindness and compassion towards ourselves throughout the journey.”

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Dad browsing on Amazon just before crash killed son

An Idaho father allegedly drafted an Instagram story, looked at cellphone pictures and browsed Amazon moments before his 7-year-old son was killed in a car crash, as he faces manslaughter charges.

Austin Summers, 31, was driving a GMC Sierra truck when he allegedly rear-ended a 2013 Ford F450 that was experiencing mechanical problems on I-84 in Canyon County, Idaho, on Nov. 25 last year, the Idaho Statesman reported, citing court documents.

Summers’ eldest son, Graham, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, was killed, and the dad was charged with manslaughter last Tuesday.

Summers, of Meridian, allegedly plowed into the Ford at a speed of between 73 and 75 mph in a 65-mph zone, while the car in front was traveling at just 7 mph in the far right lane.

His other two children, whose ages were 3 and 5 at the time of the crash, were sitting in the back of the truck and were uninjured.

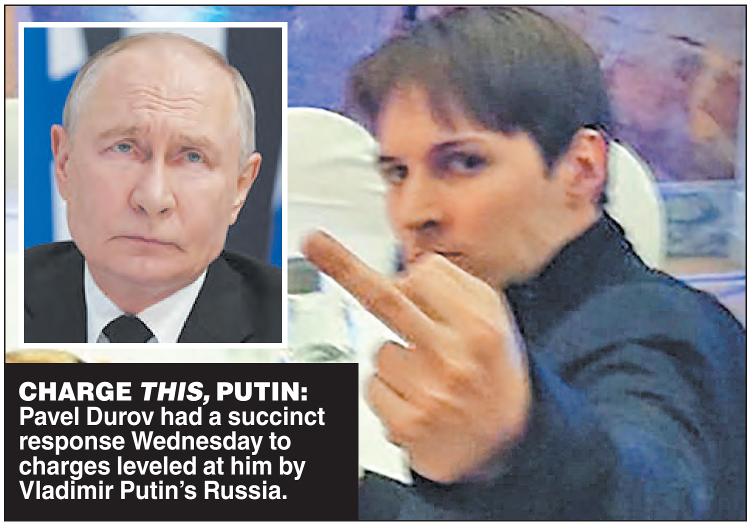
Investigators say they later found Summers had been using his phone between 2:45 p.m and 3:02 p.m., minutes before the collision.

Chris Bradford

Giving Vlad the finger

App mogul faces rap in Russia

By CHRIS BRADFORD



CHARGE *THIS,* PUTIN: Pavel Durov had a succinct response Wednesday to charges leveled at him by Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Russia on Wednesday charged Telegram founder Pavel Durov with aiding terrorism, and the messaging app fired back by sharing a photo of the multibillionaire giving the middle finger.

Durov, 41, was placed on an international wanted list and faces up to life in prison if he's convicted as Russian authorities restrict Telegram, Euronews reported.

Moscow security services have accused Telegram of not taking down channels or bots allegedly "actively used by Ukrainian intelligence agencies, terrorist, and extremist organizations to prepare and coordinate acts of sabotage and terrorism, mass murder, and cyberfraud" in Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime claims Telegram's supposed lack of action has resulted in "numerous human casualties."

Ukrainian security services have also been accused of using a popular dating chatbot on Telegram to lure and recruit Russians for "sabotage and terrorist activities."

Some 46 users, from 12 to 22 years old, have been detained across Russia since July 2025.

Durov, who was born in the former Soviet Union, founded VKontakte, a Facebook-inspired social media app, in 2006 before leaving Russia in 2014. He currently lives in Dubai.

Earlier this year, he announced that Russian authorities had opened a criminal investigation against him. He has accused them of fabricating pretexts to restrict access to Telegram as part of an attempt to "suppress the right to privacy and free speech."

Since August 2025, Russia has restricted Telegram access, and since January, has fined the app around $1.26 billion, which the company has refused to pay.

Authorities issued penalties because the app allegedly failed to remove content banned in Russia.

Moscow has engaged in multipronged efforts to rein in the internet.

Authorities have warned about the impact of foreign apps on the battlefield amid the war in Ukraine, now in its fifth year. Russia has adopted restrictive laws, banned websites and platforms that don't comply and focused on improving technology to monitor and manipulate online traffic.

Social media platforms Facebook, Instagram and X have been banned; Signal and Viber have been blocked; and WhatsApp has been restricted.

Durov was arrested in Paris in 2024 over allegations Telegram was being used for drug trafficking and distributing child sex abuse images. Last March, he said he had returned to Dubai. *With Wires*

5 years in Vegas pal slay

The gun-obsessed Las Vegas woman who expressed a desire to "shoot people with real guns and get away with it" has been sentenced to five years to life for killing her friend during an impromptu photo shoot.

Allysandra Blea, 21, was seen with her head stooped during Tuesday's sentencing after she pleaded guilty to first-degree kidnapping and involuntary manslaughter for the death of 23-year-old Mark Gaughan, Court TV reported.

Blea fired one shot at Gaughan, which hit him in the neck and killed him, near the Las Vegas Strip on Aug. 23, 2025.

The pair had been drinking vodka and smoking marijuana for hours at the home of a mutual friend leading up to the killing, the outlet reported.

Blea will serve a minimum of five years and a maximum of life in a Nevada Department of Corrections facility. *Richard Pollina*

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

Your desire to be in control of events may have been undermined by yesterday's full moon, but over the next 48 hours or so, you can and you must reassert your authority. The people around you won't resent it because they desperately need a leader.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

This week's full moon will continue to disrupt your schedule and cause you to change your plans, but it's no big deal and by this time tomorrow, the worst will be past. Stay calm and refuse to let anything get to you, even very stupid people.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You can be a bit easygoing at times, and there is a danger you could let friends and family members get away with stuff they should really be criticized for. If you don't crack the whip now, it will be much harder to do so later on.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Something in your life seems a bit unbalanced at the moment, thanks in no small part to yesterday's full moon, but it will even itself out between now and the weekend. You don't have to force the issue, you just have to be patient.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Your professional standing will be under the spotlight today, but with Venus moving through the career area of your chart, you can be sure that employers and workmates will like what they see. Your effortless brilliance will seriously impress them.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

An old way of doing things will come to an end over the next few days, to be almost immediately replaced by a new way. Don't try to hold on to the past, because the future is going to be so much more exciting for you.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

The world may be a competitive place, but you don't have to treat it like an ongoing battle. The message of the stars today is that you need to be more laidback in your dealings with other people, most of whom are just like you.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

There have been some major disruptions in your life in recent weeks but none of them were so enormous that you had to change your long-term plans. Make it your priority today to catch your breath while the world comes back into focus.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

It may make no sense to you that someone is being obstructive for no good reason, but this is one of those occasions when logic has no part to play in events. Accept that they are beyond persuasion and do what you must do without them.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

You have never been the sort to run away from your troubles but you can see that a friend or loved one is trying to do just that and they could obviously do with some assistance. Explain to them why they must face up to the truth.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

The fact that your options for action are limited may be frustrating, but it could also be helpful in that it will force you to focus on the one thing that matters more than anything else. You do have a tendency to avoid what needs to be done.

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

Identify your No. 1 priority and focus on it between now and the weekend. Mercury in your sign makes it easy for you to see the path you should be taking, but putting one foot in front of the other will take some serious effort.

BIRTHDAY THURSDAY

Having started down a certain path, you must go all the way. Too often you have given up on a promising plan because you lost interest, but that is no longer an option. If you want to be a winner, you must be ruthless with yourself this year.

KAOHLY HER
Mayor's "weiner" texts.

Sex probe into Minny politician

A Democratic mayor in Minnesota is being investigated for sexual harassment after she allegedly sent text messages to staffers — including one about getting a "good weinering."

Kaohly Her, the first female mayor of Saint Paul, is being probed just six months into her term after the police chief, Axel Henry, filed a formal complaint with the city attorney on April 1, alleging that she sent "inappropriate, and indeed, unlawful text messages" to city staffers.

In one disturbing chain of texts, Her, 53, wished a staffer "Happy Weiner Wednesday," according to the complaint obtained by KSTP.

"Wish I was having a [hotdog emoji] with you all on 6 today," the text continued.

While the term "weiner" can refer to a hot dog, it also has sexual connotations.

The mayor's office said it wouldn't comment on an "active investigation."

Chris Bradford

Turkey mulls Kurd rebels

President Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday that legislation related to the disbandment of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party militant group would be submitted to parliament "in the coming days."

The PKK, which waged a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state and is designated a terrorist group by Ankara and its Western allies, decided in May 2025 to disarm and disband, after an appeal from its jailed leader, Abdullah Ocalan. *Reuters*

'Open alcohol bottle' found in car

By EDWARD LEWIS

'CITE' TO BE SEEN: The Post received copies of three citations cops issued to Tony Romo, including one that claimed the former NFL quarterback had an open bottle of booze in his car.

Obtained by CA Post

ROMO A BOOZE TRAVELER: COP

More details about ex-Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo's OWI arrest are coming to light, including a new allegation that an open container of booze was found in his car after he was stopped by cops.

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office released to The Post copies of three citations its officers hit Romo with in the immediate aftermath of his July 23 arrest in Wisconsin, and one of them claimed the CBS NFL analyst had an "open bottle of an alcoholic beverage" located on the passenger side of his black Jeep.

A deputy discovered the item when they were taking inventory of Romo's car as it was being towed, according to the citation.

The document stated Romo is facing a $267 fine for the alleged "possess open intoxicants in MV-driver" offense.

The second citation Romo was tagged with was for "unsafe passing on right." Police wrote in the document that he drove "in the marked right distress lane to pass vehicles in lanes 1 and 2 during rush hour traffic" before he "cut across the marked gore" to get to where he wanted to go.

Romo "was in question on what a gore was when I explained the reason for the stop," his arresting officer wrote in the citation.

The ex-jock is facing a fine of $235 for the alleged offense, the document stated.

'Visiting grandparents'

The last citation Romo was given was for "operating while under the influence," an offense that, according to a copy of the citation, carries a $1,066 fine.

Court records show Romo was additionally later cited for "refuse to take test for intoxication after arrest."

Romo, according to body cam footage released to The Post on Tuesday, told cops that he had been coming from a golf course and was on his way "to visit grandma and grandpa" before he was pulled over.

During his detainment, an officer told him they suspected him of being impaired because he had "red glassy eyes" and an "odor of an intoxicating alcoholic beverage" emanating from his person.

Romo was put through multiple field sobriety tests at a police station, and he appeared to perform poorly on all of them. He also refused to take a breath test, telling one of the officers, "I've heard from all the lawyers don't ever do that. So, we're not going to do that."

The 2014 NFL All-Pro player, who's still yet to publicly comment on the incident, has been given a court date of Sept. 21.

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Baby corpses found in boxes at home

A husband in France discovered the bodies of five "decomposing" babies hidden inside cardboard boxes at his house following an argument with his wife — who had just given birth at home the previous day.

The woman, 32, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, was allegedly arguing with her husband over the contents in the boxes at their home in the historic town of Orange on Monday, The US Sun reported.

She had just given birth at home to a healthy baby boy and started complaining about abdominal pain during the argument. She was then taken to hospital when her husband made the gruesome discovery.

"The husband stayed behind when she was taken to hospital, and looked inside the cardboard boxes they had been arguing over — that's when he found the five dead babies," an investigating source said, according to the Sun.

The boxes containing the remains, which were located on the second floor of the home, were all stuffed in a large plastic bag.

The husband had been upset that he only recently learned about his wife's pregnancy after she had denied being pregnant three times, according to local outlet Le Parisien.

The husband took the bag to the hospital, which reported the horrifying find to police, a source close to the investigation told Le Parisien.

A forensic pathologist confirmed that the remains were of five infants — with further autopsies expected to be carried out.

The husband said he knew nothing of her pregnancies, and was subsequently released. *Ella Morrison*

State alone can't guard minors online

Safe tech law? Who are they 'kidding'

stock.adobe.com

RIKKI SCHLOTT

NEW YORK state has moved to protect kids from addictive social media platforms, announcing on Tuesday that the SAFE for Kids Act has been finalized and will go into effect early next year.

The law promises to stop social media companies from feeding kids personalized content via algorithms and sending them notifications deep into the night. But any parents hoping this will be a fix-all should think again.

Similar legislation implemented around the country has been blocked by courts, and social media laws in other countries like Australia and the United Kingdom have proven that kids find ways around restrictions faster than the law can keep up.

Maybe the SAFE for Kids Act will keep some tweens from being woken up by Instagram at 2 a.m., but parents beware: Lawmakers can't be kids' online chaperones. It's up to family, educators and community to hold the line.

This week, Gov. Hochul and state Attorney General Letitia James announced the finalized version of the SAFE for Kids Act — short for "Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation" — and confirmed it will go into effect on Jan. 25.

The new law would prevent qualifying social media companies from presenting minors with an algorithmically personalized feed and would also bar them from delivering children notifications between midnight and 6 a.m.

New York kids can only overrule the default setting if a parent consents, according to the law, which will be enforceable by civil penalties and age-verification processes, like government ID verification, facial-age estimation and checks against official records.

Critics have warned that age verification means that everyone is less free online, and that requiring users to prove their identities can jeopardize adults' right to go online and speak anonymously without government oversight.

New York's law, to its credit, has attempted to placate concerns by giving platforms the option to choose "zero-knowledge" age-verification systems, which are cryptographic and don't share information with third parties except for a user's adult/minor status.

Even still, the law is vulnerable.

Other states, including California and Arkansas, have tried to implement similar notification curfews, only to be blocked by courts, who deemed the regulations unconstitutional.

Similar laws attempting to ban minors from social media across the world have shown that wherever legislators have stood between kids and their apps, the kids find a way to circumvent them.

Shortfalls abroad

When Australia banned minors from social media in late 2025, many kids simply made new accounts, asked for help with bypassing restrictions, downloaded VPNs to change their geolocation data, used an older person's ID and even put on makeup to trick age-verification barriers, according to the government's own report.

A YouGov survey of Australian parents found that 27% reported their kids were switching over to alternative, less regulated platforms, meaning the law may have sent them to sketchier parts of the internet's Wild West — and those are just the parents who know what their kids are really doing online.

When Britain enforced age checks for pornography and dangerous online material that same year, VPN downloads from Proton rose 1,200%.

The UK government's own investigation found that 40% of 11- to 17-year-olds had circumvented age checks, as of this month.

Of course, social media restrictions on kids do keep some of them offline. But here in New York, there will surely be kids downloading VPNs, using parents' accounts to get on platforms and flocking to unregulated websites to access the content they're after.

That's not because New York lawmakers don't have kids' interests at heart, but because Albany will never be able to stand in for family and community in the battle to keep kids safe from online harm.

Parents, families, schools and community members need to step up.

To give them their due, they have been trying: Schools around the country have been implementing bell-to-bell cellphone bans. More and more parents are keeping their kids off social media until they're old enough to scroll responsibly. Flip phones and dumb phones are having a moment. Even kids themselves are expressing a desire to unplug.

Corrosive material such as gambling, pornography, religious radicalization or school shooter manifestos spread insidiously online, but the government can never be a stand-in for grassroots interventions — and parents shouldn't count on them to be their saviors.

'Killer' dad icy in court

ELIZABETHTOWN, NY — Alleged killer dad Luciano Frattolin sat emotionless in court Wednesday as the state played video of his continued claims that his daughter had been abducted — even after police investigators grilled him to come clean about the grisly murder of his 9-year-old.

Frattolin, 45, stared blankly at two investigators asking him repeatedly in the police interviews to fess up to what he allegedly did his daughter, Melina Frattolin — even after he'd been shown photos of her body covered in mud along Paragon Brook, eight miles off Interstate 87 in Ticonderoga.

He is on trial in Essex County in the girl's July 19, 2025, death.

"We both came back to the car," Frattolin told State Police investigator Ashlee Marks in the July 20, 2025, recordings, despite being told his daughter had already been found dead hours earlier and placed under a tree about 10 minutes into the Adirondack wilderness down a hiking trail.

Police were led to her body by data from Frattolin's cellphone, which also had a trackable Apple air tag attached to it.

The trial is expected to resume Thursday.

Vaughn Golden

'War crimes' call over Mali

Amnesty International on Wednesday called for a war crimes investigation into what it described as the summary killings of at least 19 Malian soldiers by members of armed groups after an ambush on July 18.

The attack occurred in northern Mali between the town of Anefis and the city of Gao, according to statements from Mali's armed forces, the Azawad Liberation Front, and the al Qaeda-linked group Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin.

The UN human rights office has also called for an investigation into the incident.

Reuters

Lana Condor (far left) and Kathryn Newton, at a Los Angeles screening, look pretty good considering they just had a life-and-death fight in Thailand with a bloodthirsty shark in their new movie "The Devil's Mouth."

2 beauties — & the beast

BACKGRID

'FREE' MONEY FOR KIDS

Fed scholarships

By CARL CAMPANILE

Nearly 52 million students nationwide in public, private or charter schools could be eligible for federal "freedom" scholarships, including more than 2.7 million students in New York state, according to a report released Tuesday.

Thirty-one states, covering 31 million students, have opted into the "Education Freedom Tax Credit" program, including New York — despite opposition from teachers unions, which claim the tax credit is a privatization or "voucher" scheme that will spur an exodus from public schools.

Most Democratic states have yet to opt into the program, including California, where nearly 6 million students would benefit, said school choice group the American Federation for Children in its analysis.

Nearly 21 million students are in states that have not signed up for the program, which kicks in next year.

The scholarships for private school students in Catholic schools and yeshivas can be used to defray tuition costs.

Public school students can use the scholarships for tutoring, after-school programs or to cover transportation costs, advocates said.

Under the law, governors from each state have to "opt in" for students to obtain financial scholarships.

It was the top priority of the New York State Catholic Conference and the Teach NY Coalition/Orthodox Union, which advocate for yeshivas or Jewish schools.

For example, such donations could go to the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, which provides financial aid to students who enroll in Catholic schools run by the Archdiocese of New York.

Gov. Hochul, a Democrat seeking re-election to a second term this fall, opted into the program.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, considered a Democratic contender for president in 2028, has not opted in, as of yet, the report noted.

'Potential to help'

"Hochul is supportive of the federal tax credit scholarship and its potential to help New York students and schools," a Hochul spokesperson said Tuesday.

Under the program included in the Republican-led budget bill approved by President Trump last year, individual taxpayers make donations to nonprofit scholarship-granting organizations and receive a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit of up to $1,700 per year.

The groups then use the donations to provide financial aid to students.

Tommy Schultz, CEO of the American Federation for Children, said, "Every governor needs to opt in so that all of them can benefit."

"For governors and states who have taken swift action to opt in, thank you, and for governors still considering opting in, what are you waiting for?" Schultz said.

"Children and families in your states, by the millions, are waiting for the educational resources that will support them through the tax credit," he went on.

The AFC analysis said about 90% of students would qualify for the program since households earning up to 300% of area income are eligible.

The influential New York State United Teachers union claims the tax credit scholarship will hurt public schools.

"A school voucher redirects public tax dollars to pay for private school tuition," NYSUT said in a recent statement.

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‘Wicked stepma’ plea nix

The Connecticut “house of horrors” mom accused of imprisoning her stepson in foul conditions for decades rejected a plea deal to serve only 10 years in prison — as the victim’s biological mother blasted the alleged abuser’s attorney for acting like a show pony.

Prosecutors reiterated an offer that Kimberly Sullivan, 57, be sentenced to 30 years behind bars, suspended after 20 years served, during a 90-second court hearing in Waterbury on Wednesday.

Judge Corinne Klatt sweetened the deal by suggesting Sullivan serve 30 years, with the sentence suspended after 10 years.

Sullivan’s lawyer, Ioannis Kaloidis, said she’s innocent.

Sullivan is accused of keeping her stepson, now 33, locked in a filthy room in their Waterbury home beginning when he was around 10, letting him out for chores.

Biological mother Tracy Vallerand blasted prosecutors for offering the cushy plea deal and referred to Kaloidis as “Beavis” of the sitcom “Beavis and Butthead.”

Vallerand gave up her son when he was 6 months old to his father, Kraigg Sullivan, and Kimberly.

Reuven Fenton
and Zoe Hussain

Granny to the rescue

A 71-year-old grandmother who recently taught herself how to swim jumped into a river in China to save a man drowning — and then brushed off her daring rescue as “not a big deal,” according to reports.

Liu Defang was chatting with friends near a river in Suixi county in Anhui province on July 13 when she heard someone shout “someone has fallen into the water,” the South China Morning Post reported.

Video captured a man climbing onto the bridge’s railing before plunging into the river in an attempt to drown himself, the outlet reported. *Zoe Hussain*

Death threats vs. ‘MAHA’ influencer

WHAT THE HEALTH IS GOING ON HERE?

Reuters

LIVING IN PERIL: Alex Clark, host of the “Culture Apothecary” podcast, blames the threats on the “assassination culture” gripping the left.

By VICTOR NAVA

Conservative health and wellness influencer Alex Clark revealed in the latest episode of “Pod Force One” that she’s been inundated with death threats for simply urging Americans to eat better food.

Clark, host of Turning Point USA’s “Culture Apothecary” podcast, blamed the “assassination culture” gripping the left as part of the reason threats against her life have surged in the wake of Charlie Kirk’s murder.

“I could not tell you since Charlie was killed the amount of death threats I’ve received,” Clark told “Pod Force One” guest host Lydia Moynihan. “And what’s even crazier is a few of those have definitely been from the left, but a lot of them have been from Candace Owens fans.”

The Make America Healthy Again influencer lamented she needs “24/7 security” when she visits college campuses — despite simply talking about health and wellness — because of the threats.

“I’m not really that big of a threat to the left, just based on my type of Turning Point tours, but now I have to have armed security everywhere I go,” she said. “I was asked, ‘Do you want to start wearing a bulletproof vest?’ I’m talking about eating real food . . . This is stuff five years ago, seven years ago, when I first got hired, this would have been inconceivable to me.”

Clark called it “a really scary time” to be a Christian conservative in the US.

“I don’t know that in history it’s ever been harder to be openly conservative and openly Christian in the United States of America,” she told “Pod Force One,” arguing that if you’re “a conservative walking around in a MAGA hat, you have such a massive target on you, and it’s very scary.”

Clark, who has developed a massive conservative female following, was also asked about how she’s been able to win over so many women — who historically lean more toward the political left.

Reaching women

“So, I think historically the way to reach women has always been through culture, and the left . . . they dominate pop culture, so I think that avenue really belongs to the left,” she explained.

“And what we really have is the opportunity to step in when it comes to parenting and health and food and family; those are things that I think the conservative movement can really own, and we can reach women through.”

In terms of the MAHA movement, Clark teased that “chemicals in our clothing” will be a big issue for health-conscious voters in the coming year.

“The thing is that I’m super-passionate about, I think that 2026, mark my words, 2026 has really been the year of pesticides. I think 2027, when it comes to MAHA voters, is going to be the year of chemicals in our clothing,” she said.

“I think we are starting to see the very beginning tide changing here on natural fiber and organic cotton clothing, and a big huge war on polyester.”

Clark noted that clothing-chemical laws in the US “have not been updated since the 1940s” and that with “the rise of eczema and skin sensitivities,” more Americans should be aware of the outdated laws on the books.

She argued that taking on chemicals in clothes is “an easy thing that the FDA could say that we are going to start doing in America.”

Anarchist ‘siege’ of Wisconsin capital

Black Lives Matter and Antifa protesters have blockaded two trendy blocks in downtown Madison, Wis., a week after armed serial felon Corey Ruiz was fatally shot by police — erecting barricades similar to the infamous 2020 Seattle “Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone” (CHAZ).

And the city of Madison — home to the state capitol and the main campus of the University of Wisconsin — is helping them by providing portable toilets and other resources.

Neighbors have had enough, telling WMTV 15 News they feel “trapped” by the rapidly expanding protest zone.

“I feel the protest has turned into a very disrespectful occupation focused on punishing [the] ‘Willy Street’ [business district] for the incident,” one local told the outlet.

Ruiz’s caught-on-camera shooting has become a national flashpoint as local BLM activists have seized on the killing, sparking protests that have roiled the state capital’s central business district on a nightly basis ever since.

Prison records show that Ruiz was Hispanic, and not black — though court records listed him as African-American.

He had recently been released from prison, and had knifed a cop moments before he was fatally shot, according to authorities.

Chris Nesi

Bail nix for NBC ‘invader’

The nut who allegedly stormed the set of NBC’s “Today” Show and hurled a racial slur at host Craig Melvin is now set for an extended stay at Rikers Island — after he violated the terms of his earlier probation, a court heard Wednesday.

Andrew Truelove, 41, was ordered held without bail during a brief hearing in Manhattan Supreme Court.

The ruling came after Truelove was accused July 16 of barging into an unauthorized area of 30 Rockefeller Center, demanding to know the whereabouts of beloved anchor Al Roker before encountering Melvin and calling him the N-word.

During Wednesday’s hearing, Justice Gregory Carro heard arguments that the arrest had violated the conditions set as part of Truelove’s sentencing on a criminal-mischief rap just a month earlier. *Kyle Schnitzer and Steven Hirsch*

‘Terminal’ cases

ICE ramps up deports at airports

By CHRIS NESI

You’re no longer free to move about the cabin.

ICE has begun arresting foreign nationals who have overstayed their visas when they check into airports around the US — following reports that the TSA is sharing passenger data with immigration officers.

At least 27 people from over a dozen countries have been arrested while traveling through US airports, according to ABC News, citing Department of Homeland Security documents.

“DHS reversed the horrendous Biden-era policy that allowed aliens in our country illegally to jet around our country. Under President Trump, DHS will no longer tolerate this,” DHS said.

“This administration is working diligently to ensure that aliens in our country illegally can no longer fly unless it is out of our country to self-deport.”

Airports, of course, require flyers to share their personal details in order to get on planes — giving ICE agents clear opportunities to target illegal migrants for arrest.

Anti-Trump legal group American Oversight on Tuesday released a document outlining a data-sharing agreement between ICE and the Transportation Security Administration.

The document, signed in May 2025, describes in non-specific terms that TSA will provide ICE with certain passenger data elements which the agency will collect and retain.

However, the appendices in the document identifying the precise data being shared were all but completely redacted.

Broad reach

The expanded enforcement effort marks the opening of a new front for the DHS as it scrambles to meet administration arrest quotas numbering in the thousands per day.

The exact airports where arrests have been made was not immediately clear, but there have been reports of ICE arrests at airports in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Nashville, Denver and San Francisco.

Footage of some of the arrests have been making the rounds on social media, including the apprehension of Phu Nguyen, an Australian citizen born in Vietnam, on a visa that expired in 2015, at LAX on Monday.

Another widely circulated video shows ICE officers arresting Chantal Morales Rojas, 27, an Ecuadoran woman living in Oakland, about to board a flight home from Denver Airport.

ICE told the Denver Post that Rojas’ visa had expired in January 2025 and was therefore in the country illegally.

Although the arrests have only recently ramped up, ICE has had a toehold at US airports for more than a year.

Guard was prisoner of love

A female corrections officer was caught canoodling with a male inmate at a New Jersey federal prison after her jailbird lover paid other prisoners to stand lookout during their trysts, and even had a pregnancy scare from the sordid affair, according to feds.

Jordan Pensak, a guard at the Federal Correctional Institution in Fort Dix, was slapped with a criminal summons by the FBI at the prison Monday and charged for a Jan. 8 sex act with the inmate, NJ.com reported.

Starting in 2024, Pensak had sex with an inmate several times in an office at the prison, the federal charge against her alleges.

Pensak, who hinted at having a husband in texts, and her imprisoned lover exchanged over 100 sexually explicit messages, photos and videos, the Philly Voice reported, citing the summons. *Ella Morrison*

Post Weather Report

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Thursday

Today: Decreasing clouds and showers around. High 72 to 78.

Tonight: A shower early; mostly cloudy. Low 65 to 71.

Friday

Tomorrow: Warmer with clouds and sun. High 80 to 86.

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 66 to 72.

Saturday

Clouds and sun. High 80 to 86.

Evening
Humid. Low 67 to 73.

Sunday

A stray t-storm. High 79 to 85.

Evening
Cloudy and humid. Low 67 to 73.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

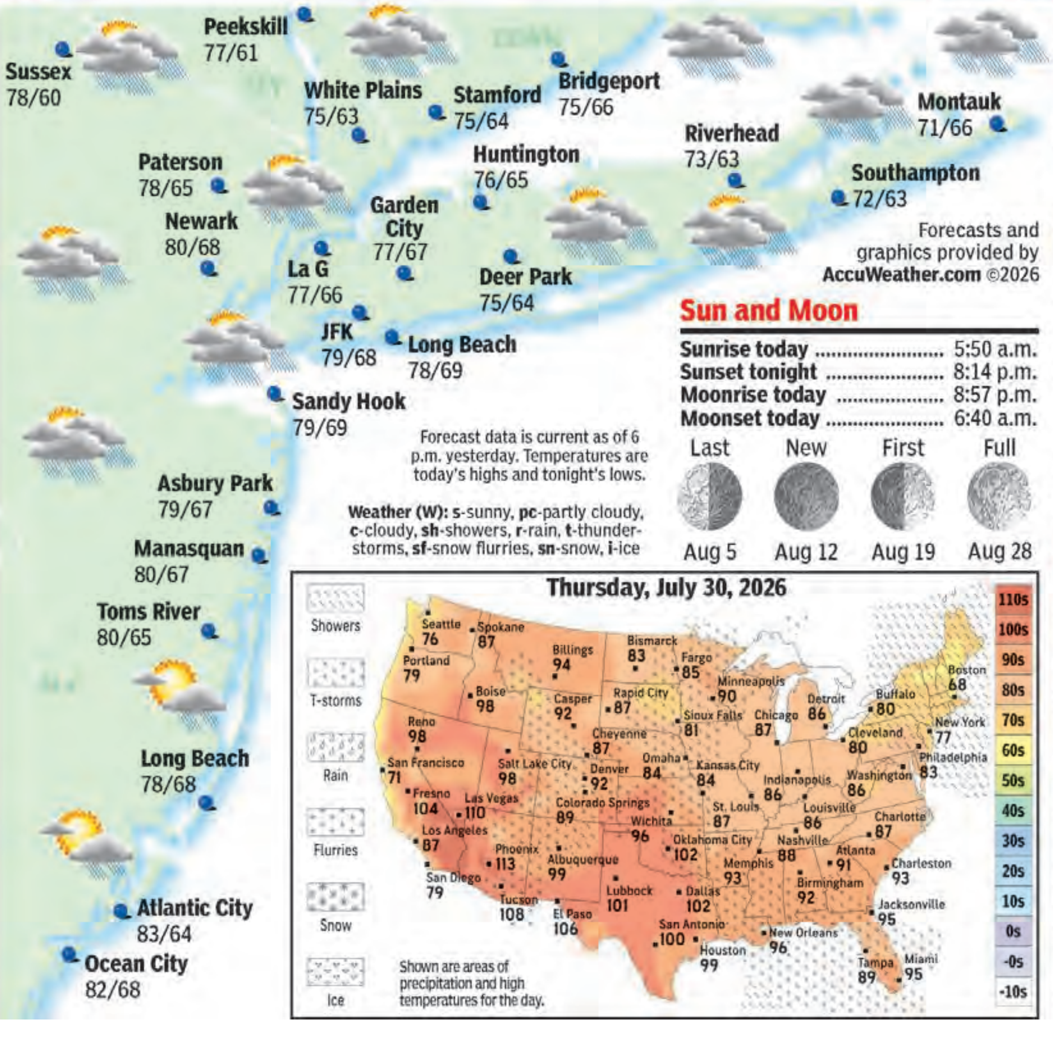
Temperature
High: 80, Low: 69, Mean: 75

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -3 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.40", Month: 4.71",
Year: 22.53", Normal year to date: 27.97"

Cooling Degree days yesterday..............10
Total for the month (normal).......344 (367)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)..........744 (675)
Last year to date....................................754
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 79
UV index (for Thu.) .... 4 (Moderate)
Humidity (at noon) 81%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Weeds
AQI rating: (for Thu.) .... Good


Sussex 78/60
Peekskill 77/61
White Plains 75/63
Stamford 75/64
Bridgeport 75/66
Riverhead 73/63
Montauk 71/66
Paterson 78/65
Newark 80/68
Garden City 77/67
Huntington 76/65
Southampton 72/63
La G 77/66
Deer Park 75/64
JFK 79/68
Long Beach 78/69
Sandy Hook 79/69
Asbury Park 79/67
Manasquan 80/67
Toms River 80/65
Long Beach 78/68
Atlantic City 83/64
Ocean City 82/68
Thursday, July 30, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 76
Spokane 87
Portland 79
Billings 94
Bismarck 83
Fargo 85
Boise 98
Casper 92
Rapid City 87
Minneapolis 90
Sioux Falls 81
Chicago 87
Detroit 86
Buffalo 80
Boston 68
Reno 98
Cheyenne 87
Cleveland 80
New York 77
Philadelphia 83
San Francisco 71
Salt Lake City 98
Denver 92
Omaha 84
Kansas City 84
Indianapolis 86
Washington 86
Fresno 104
Las Vegas 110
Colorado Springs 89
Wichita 96
St. Louis 87
Louisville 86
Charlotte 87
Los Angeles 87
Phoenix 113
Albuquerque 99
Oklahoma City 102
Nashville 88
Memphis 93
Atlanta 91
Charleston 93
San Diego 79
Tucson 108
El Paso 106
Lubbock 101
Dallas 102
Birmingham 92
Jacksonville 95
San Antonio 100
Houston 99
New Orleans 96
Tampa 89
Miami 95
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:50 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:14 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 8:57 p.m.
Moonset today .... 6:40 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 28

New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	9:02a	9:08p	9:38a	9:44p
Fire Island	8:58a	9:22p	9:37a	9:58p
Hempstead	12:19a	12:49p	12:49a	1:16p
Huntington	12:19a	12:48p	12:55a	1:22p
Jones Inlet	8:46a	8:52p	9:22a	9:28p
Montauk Point	10:30a	10:38p	11:11a	11:15p
Port Washington	12:21a	12:54p	12:48a	1:15p
Sandy Hook	9:06a	9:12p	9:42a	9:48p

Regional cities

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	74/61/sh	81/62/pc
Danbury	74/61/sh	82/63/pc
Glens Falls	73/58/sh	80/60/pc
Gr Barrington	72/59/sh	80/59/pc
Kingston	77/61/sh	84/62/pc
Liberty	74/60/sh	79/59/pc
Monticello	75/59/sh	80/57/pc
Newburgh	78/60/sh	85/62/pc
Poughkeepsie	76/61/sh	83/60/pc
Saratoga Springs	74/60/sh	80/61/pc
Stroudsburg	79/62/pc	85/59/pc
Torrington	73/60/sh	83/60/pc
Syracuse	78/62/sh	85/62/pc

World cities

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	92/77/s	91/76/s
Baghdad	118/91/pc	119/94/pc
Beijing	94/80/sh	93/80/pc
Berlin	100/68/s	87/65/pc
Cairo	100/79/pc	101/78/pc
Dublin	68/48/sh	67/48/pc
Geneva	97/67/s	87/64/t
Hong Kong	86/80/t	85/80/t
Jerusalem	91/72/s	92/73/s
Kabul	93/68/pc	90/68/pc
London	81/59/pc	78/56/s
Madrid	103/74/s	99/72/s
Mexico City	78/56/sh	79/56/r
Montreal	78/64/sh	82/66/sh
Moscow	70/59/t	77/57/s
Paris	90/67/sh	87/63/pc
Rio de Janeiro	78/69/pc	76/66/sh
Rome	95/72/s	95/71/s
Sydney	62/44/s	63/48/pc
Tokyo	99/81/sh	97/80/sh

POSTOPINION

Darkest Days

Zo-sparked violence on Jewish day of sorrow

YOSIE LEVINE

NO HATE
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FIRE
MAMDANI
.COM
Laura Brett/ZUMA / SplashNews.com

Outraged: Protesters this week held Mamdani responsible for fueling antisemitic violence after Moshe Grunhaus was stabbed on the UWS.

THE ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, "Tisha B'Av," is the darkest day on the Jewish calendar. Jews observe it by sitting on the floor, fasting and rehearsing the calamities that have shaped Jewish history: the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, the Crusades, the Spanish Expulsion and the Holocaust.

The holiday is a l reminder that too many chapters of the Jewish story have been written in tears. But this year, our darkest day became even darker.

Tisha B'Av commemorates the tragedies of the past, but last week, the past became the present: After spending the morning at The Jewish Center, the synagogue I lead on Manhattan's Upper West Side, Moshe Grunhaus, wearing a yarmulke, started to walk home. He barely made it 200 feet when he was stabbed by a man who shouted, "Allahu Akbar," the words with which Islamist terrorists have all too often announced their murderous intent.

The alleged assailant was quickly apprehended. In addition to charging the defendant with assault and attempted murder, the Manhattan district attorney charged him with a hate crime. Thank God, Moshe survived the attack and is expected to make a full recovery. But that's scant consolation for a community that increasingly feels vilified, isolated and unsafe in the city it has called home for many generations.

For the first time in memory, Jewish life in America is beginning to feel like Jewish life in Europe: armed guards, bulletproof glass, security checkpoints and the constant fear that yesterday's rhetoric will become today's assault.

What happened last week on West 86th Street didn't happen in a vacuum. When public officials repeatedly cast the Jewish community as a stand-in for the actions of the Israeli government, visibly Jewish New Yorkers increasingly find themselves in the crosshairs. Mamdani is patently wrong to pretend he can criticize Israel, and oppose its very existence as a Jewish state, without demeaning its supporters — specifically, Jews.

My congregants have asked me whether their children ought to wear caps rather than yarmulkes in public. My dental hygienist recently told me her 10-year-old grandson came home from public school and asked his mother, "Why do we have to be Jewish?"

Words matter. They establish moral boundaries. They shape what people believe is acceptable to say, and, eventually, what people believe is acceptable to do. The mayor has called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a war criminal; he's falsely accused Israel of committing genocide; he's alleged that it's an apartheid state; and he's used words like "monsters" to describe its backers.

This drumbeat of demonization has helped create a climate in which Jew-haters feel increasingly emboldened. Last week's attack was a sobering reminder that reckless political theater invites bad actors to translate hateful rhetoric into actual hate crimes.

The irony could not be more painful. The rabbis famously taught that the Jews' Second Temple was destroyed because of sinat chinam, baseless hatred.

Neighbors stopped being neighborly. Civility gave way to contempt. Instead of seeing one another as fellow human beings, people instead saw enemies, rivals and objects of suspicion.

That lesson remains painfully relevant. Societies are undone not only by external enemies; they are weakened from within when contempt becomes fashionable, when disagreement hardens into demonization and when neighbors become caricatures.

Violence rarely begins with weapons. It begins with words.

For the Jewish community, Tisha B'Av has always been about memory. We recount our tragedies not because we relish dwelling on suffering, but because memory creates moral obligation.

It reminds us how quickly incendiary words can become prejudice, how quickly prejudice can devolve into dehumanization and how quickly dehumanization can erupt into violence.

Now the mayor is using his platform to foment the very fractiousness we're meant to rise above. He's called for New Yorkers to protest Netanyahu's presence when he visits New York in September.

Has he shown equal urgency in protecting the Jewish New Yorkers who become the targets of the passions such protests inflame? The first obligation of any mayor is the safety of his citizens. Fixating on the policies of a foreign leader while failing to confront rising antisemitism on the streets of New York constitutes mayoral malpractice and risks endangering more Jewish lives.

Our moment demands that people of conscience not only condemn antisemitism but also speak out against rhetoric that endangers Jews — before more violence occurs. Let's shine the light of moral clarity across our city before next year's Tisha B'Av grows even darker.

Yosie Levine is the rabbi at The Jewish Center in New York City.

FAST TAKES

Democrat: Leave the Theatrics to Hollywood

The US entertainment industry's "gloriously cutthroat" spirit "makes America the cultural center of the world and a domestic economic growth engine," but the suit by a dozen blue-state attorneys general to "block the acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery by Paramount Skydance puts it all at risk" with bogus antitrust claims, warns Ari Emanuel at The Wall Street Journal. In their the "trash" antitrust case, the AGs "pretend Amazon MGM, A24 and Lionsgate don't exist" though their films have grossed billion already this year. The merged firm's "27% share of feature-film box office" won't "substantially lessen competition"; indeed, the deal leaves the new company "committed to at least 30 theatrical releases a year." "The harm doesn't begin when the attorneys general win their suit," it began when money started to pour "into legal fees rather than productions." "Let Hollywood creatives get back to trying to rip each other's heads off . . . it's what we're best at."

Conservative: Dems Outgrew Common Sense

Elon Musk in a recent interview offered "a powerful diagnosis of the growing gulf between America and Europe, Republicans and Democrats, 'normal people' and the mainstream media," remarks USA Today's Nicole Russell. The interviewer claimed Musk "supports not just the populist right but the far right — in fact, very fringe parties"; he replied, "No, I support the normal people. What you call the far right, falsely." Russell continues: He dared his questioner "to consider that 10 to 15 years ago, Obama and Clinton held the same views on immigration and other issues that Trump holds today, views the 'lunatic left' now brands far right." At every level of government, "commonsense ideas Democrats once agreed on are now dismissed as fringe" and: "The chasm between right and left" is "dug deeper by the media."

Libertarian: Too Many Elex Over From the Start

Some 150 House races this year "had no meaningful competition," gripes Reason's Eric Boehm, with incumbents "all but guaranteed another two years in office after running unopposed in their primaries" in districts that are super-safe red or blue seats — leaving more than 84 million Americans "effectively disenfranchised." California, Washington and Hawaii now have "open, all-candidate primaries," leaving only five of their 63 House seats uncontested. Yes, that often means "two candidates from the same party advancing" to the general, but it beats watching more than one-third of candidates win before the election even starts. "Americans should be embracing any and all ideas that aim to make elections more competitive."

Historian: DSA Takeover Was By Invitation

Elizabeth Warren

The socialist "takeover of the Democratic Party" wasn't sparked by concerns about 'affordability,'" but "was merely the logical culmination of . . . radicalism within the Democratic aristocracy," including "Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, and Hakeem Jeffries," contends Victor Davis Hanson at American Greatness. "Mainstream Democrats" spread nearly every "weaponized scam and national hysteria in the last two decades." Did the "Democratic apparat calm the waters," when "three would-be assassins got close enough to killing Trump?" Did they "at least pretend to deplore the violence" against ICE? No, socialists "did not hijack the party;" they "were spawned and nurtured by aged Democrats," adding only antisemitism. "America will soon see how this insanity works out."

Urbanist: Rent Freeze at Real Risk

In response to the Rent Guidelines Board vote "to fulfill the mayor's campaign promise" of a "rent freeze," a group of "affected property owners" have sued "to nullify" that 0% hike, notes City Journal's John Ketcham. A politically-motivated vote "could constitute a violation of due process." The law requires the RGB to "weigh evidence of certain economic factors" in its deliberations, yet the "evidence before the RGB — based upon the board's own research — does not support" the freeze, since it found landlords' expenses up 5.3% in the last year. Plus, multiple board members have well-documented "histories of anti-owner bias," also supporting "a finding that the RGB's decision was arbitrary and capricious."

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

NEW YORK POST

America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

A Contemptible Silence

America deserves answers about the feds and COVID — but got none of them from Wednesday's Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing, because Dr. Anthony Fauci chose to take the Fifth for four hours, 111 times.

Outrageous: The Fifth Amendment grants a right to not incriminate yourself, yet Fauci is immune to criminal charges thanks to President Joe Biden's blanket pardon.

The nation's longtime infectious-diseases czar bore major responsibility for closing schools and businesses during the pandemic, forcing toddlers to wear masks and imposing dubious vaccine mandates on whole classes of Americans.

Does Fauci regret *any* of it, especially when he so confidently advised these moves despite a lack of compelling scientific evidence that such moves made any real sense?

Why did he direct taxpayer funds to Chinese "gain-of-function" experiments that created viruses targeted at humans?

Why did he lie repeatedly about those funding decisions and use his official powers to fake a scientific consensus that the COVID virus developed naturally?

Above all: What can we do next time to make sure this *doesn't happen again?*

"I will invoke my right under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution to refrain from answering your questions," was all Fauci had to say.

Chairman Paul will move to hold Fauci in contempt for his stonewalling, and rightly so.

As Sen. Josh Hawley noted, "The Supreme Court has been clear for a century and more. Brown vs. Walker, 1896: 'When he has been pardoned, he may not stand upon his privilege.'" So the only thing that could land Fauci in legal trouble is if commits some new crime now, such as lying under oath. Maybe his lawyers think he can't stop himself from lying?

He refused to answer even when asked the day of the week and the color of his tie.

Fauci made a complete mockery of the Fifth Amendment, just as his tyrannical pandemic policies ran roughshod over a host of other constitutional rights. The Senate has a clear duty to hold him in contempt, and with all practical penalties that can entail.

Trump's Gift to His Iran-War Critics

President Trump's enemies want Americans to think he has no idea what he's doing in the Iran war — and his own words can make it easy for them to sell that claim.

Like when he says he's pausing strikes because the Iranians really seem to want to talk — yet Iran's military never stops striking its neighbors (our allies) and our bases, killing our troops.

It makes perfect sense that he vows serious hurt after Tehran shot missiles at US forces in Jordan, but then he says in the same breath that negotiations will continue.

Sometimes his own people put out a confusing line, like last weekend's leaks about how US stocks of interceptors were running low, and that's why we paused bombing late Friday. Huh? Taking out Iran's missile and drone launch sites more robustly is the best way to *reduce* our use of THAAD and Patriot interceptors: You don't have to stop missiles the enemy can't launch.

After multiple rounds of pause-and-resume, it's unmistakable that Iran reads any US restraint as weakness.

Whereas Tehran needs to worry when Saudi Arabia joined US strikes on Iran's pet Iraqi militias: Every sign that Iran's attacks are bolstering the alliance against it sends the best possible signal. And yay on Ukraine for hitting a Russian vessel ferrying to and from Iran via the Caspian Sea.

The Iranian strategy — which now has the Houthis joining in the economic warfare — sure seems to assume that concern for the US economy is what explains Trump's pauses. If that really is the issue, the prez should say so clearly, because otherwise he's confusing the American public more than he is the enemy.

What NYC's Schools Refuse Learn

New York City public schools have fallen completely back to the discredited practice of "social promotion" — moving students on to the next grade no matter what — even as the evidence grows that it's a terrible mistake.

Last year, Department of Education schools held back just 0.4% of students in grades 3 through 8 — though 40% failed to meet proficiency standards on state tests, and 3% didn't meet the most minimal requirements for promotion.

The number of students held back has plummeted since 2014, when Mayor Bill de Blasio started letting schools rely on "holistic" measures instead of standardized test scores. About the same time, Mississippi started taking the exact opposite approach — part of a huge success.

In 2013, the state passed the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, which ended social promotion and required third graders to show reading proficiency before advancing to fourth grade. Schools notify families when a child is at risk of being held back and create a reading plan to help them catch up.

The results speak for themselves: Today, Mississippi's fourth graders read nearly a full school year ahead of their NYC peers, though the city spends three times as much per pupil; the Magnolia State now leads the nation in teaching black kids to read.

Bottom line: The folks running education policy in New York City simply refuse to take the obvious steps to ensure our kids learn to read.

---

letters@nypost.com

Zo's 'Eat the Rich' Hit List: Why Doxx Your Neighbors?

THE ISSUE: The city lists names and addresses of all homeowners who may fall under the new pied-à-terre tax.

•You probably won't find the names of Mayor Mamdani and his parents on that database of wealthy property owners because their expensive second home is in Uganda ("'Dox'terZo's hit list," July 28).

You won't hear a word of complaint about that out of the mouth of our spoiled rich-kid Marxist mayor, who loves to grab other people's money.

Gary Mottola
Brooklyn

•Kudos for your article — Mayor Mandami's disdain for the property rights of his constituents has been quite evident, but who knew he held such contempt for their rights to privacy, as well? What possible public purpose could be served by the doxxing of any homeowner's tax status?

James Evans
Worcester, Mass.

Mayor Mamdani

•Mamdani has now committed the dumbest act in the history of New York City politics by exposing resident potential targets for a new "second home tax" that he and the repugnant governor favor.

By publicly providing the names and addresses of people the tax will target, he exposes them all to ridicule and potential physical harm, including assaults or even murder, by hateful radicals. This act may fly in commie countries, but in America we don't do that to our neighbors.

Rich Klitzberg
Princeton, NJ

•Zohran has surely outdone Tony Soprano — by publishing what amounts to a hit list on wealthy New Yorkers, he has put thousands in jeopardy.

Jews aren't the only unsafe group in New York. They're now joined by anyone who has a nice apartment and thought that paying exorbitant taxes would be enough — not so in Mamdani's world.

JJ Levine
Miami Beach, Fla.

•Being that the mayor's desire is to print the names of New Yorkers he will tax on his "Eat the Rich" campaign, I feel that he should include his mother's name on his enemies list, as she owned a $2 million home in Manhattan.

Jeff Cooperman
Land O' Lakes, Fla.

•The mayor is a dangerous and hateful person for listing all the names of "wealthy" property owners for his base to go seek out. He's acting like Stalin because he's a communist himself.

John Stanolevich
Flushing

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Don's Chance To Torture Journos

THE ISSUE: President Trump's remarks at Friday night's White House Correspondents' Dinner.

•At the White House Correspondents' Dinner, President Trump was a tired old man, dozing off during the early speeches and he was not funny at all ("Journo decries Don ribs," July 27).

He couldn't deliver a few of the jokes because he doesn't know how to tell them. He also gave a very mundane and boring speech, reverting to the usual nonsense: the ballroom, America's war in Iran and "woe is me." Ridiculous!

Hank DePerro
Manhattan

•Trump had the opportunity of a lifetime with a room filled with media honchos. They were a captivated audience or rather, a captive audience, subjected to an onslaught of verbal assaults. Then again, they had it coming .

The president made it perfectly clear that while he disagreed with much of the media, he nonetheless had much respect for the industry and looked forward to returning next year. After a grueling evening for those in attendance, I'm not sure that the Correspondents' Association felt the same way.

Ronald Frank
West Orange, NJ

•After his dismal performance at the White House Correspondents' Dinner this past weekend, it should be obvious to everyone — except the president, of course — that our lame-duck leader has no future in stand-up comedy.

Bob Ory, Chicago

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Gulf Allies Can't Wait

On-again, off-again war's cost

HUSSAIN ABDUL-HUSSAIN

PRESIDENT Trump says he has "plenty of time" for talks with Iran. That works because Washington, DC, is 7,000 miles away from the Strait of Hormuz. But if you are in Dubai, the distance drops down to less than 50 miles.

While America can afford a protracted war far from its borders to degrade Iran's military capabilities, such low-intensity confrontation comes at a high cost for the six Gulf Arab nations. Iranian strikes on civilian infrastructure like airports and power plants along with the uncertain fate of oil exported through the Strait of Hormuz has had a devastating economic impact. For the Gulf countries, this war cannot end too soon.

If America wants to twist Iran's arm to force it to concede, therefore, then Washington must apply greater military force. The last thing Gulf countries want to live through is the current on-again, off-again war.

For Gulf economies to rebound, American consistency, which is in short supply these days, is a necessary condition. Throughout the war that began at the end of February, these countries have been on the receiving end of sustained Iranian attacks. Unlike Israel, the US's partner in the first phase of the war, the Gulf states don't possess the will or the means to join the fight.

Must the United States then curb its bombing of Iran so Tehran's immediate neighbors are spared from its wrath? And if not, can Washington do anything to provide them with more protection?

Nearly six months into a war that all six Gulf states initially opposed, Iran's attacks have left them in no doubt that the regime poses the most direct and deadliest threat to their security. That realization hasn't resulted in a unified Gulf policy toward Iran.

Some states are more hawkish than others. But the economic strain brought about by the war, by Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and now by the growing tensions in the broader Red Sea, has forced all of them to conclude that the current situation of "no war, no peace" isn't tenable.

Stepping up: Saudi Arabia joined in a US strike on an IRGC-linked site in Iraq.

AFP via Getty Images

Among the hawks, the United Arab Emirates stands out as the most strident voice. After the Iranians pounded Abu Dhabi with ballistic missiles, the UAE broke diplomatic ties with Iran, deported Iranian expatriates and froze Iranian bank accounts.

Bahrain — which hosts the US Fifth Fleet and US Naval Forces Central Command — is also a staunch opponent of Tehran. During the recent fighting, Iranian forces attacked civilian and military installations in Bahrain. Bahrain struck Iranian targets in response.

Nor have the remaining Gulf countries, which tend toward neutrality and have historically had good relations with Iran, been spared. Iran pulled Kuwait into the fray by targeting its main international airport, along with desalination plants, power stations and offshore oil rigs.

When it comes to Qatar and Oman, both have continued to appease the mullahs despite attacks on their soil by Tehran.

Saudi Arabia has adopted a similarly non-confrontational posture, although it joined in US attacks on Iranian-linked sites in Iraq this week after they targeted US forces.

As the US deliberates on the next steps in the war, it will need to take into account these different positions, given our close commercial and military ties in the Gulf.

None of these countries is likely to oppose a further US military offensive outright, particularly if it ends Iran's stranglehold on the passage of oil. Conversely, a US pullback will send a signal to Tehran that it is the main power in that region, to the detriment of our Gulf Arab allies.

To be blunt, there is no way of preventing Iran from retaliating against the Gulf states. The question, therefore, is how much more pain these states are prepared to absorb.

As long as the Islamic Republic remains a threat, the Gulf States have to choose between appeasement, which will cement Iran as the dominant power in the region, containment, which means relying on a United States that is wary of indefinite commitments, or confrontation, which will require them to step up their own defense and even acquire nuclear weapons.

A better option is to resolve the problem now by urging Trump to follow through on his latest warnings to Iran's rulers. Because whether they like it or not, as long as the regime survives, ultimately all the Gulf states are at risk.

Hussain Abdul-Hussain is a research fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies.

SHEER IGNORANCE FUELS DSA AGENDA

DANIEL McCARTHY

THE Democratic Socialists of America don't like being called Communists, though many members might echo the sentiment of leftist influencer Hasan Piker when he says, "I don't have an issue with an end goal of communism."

Yet however the group self-identifies, its agenda is openly revolutionary. Its plans call for, among other things, abolishing the US Senate and making the executive branch and the Supreme Court subservient to the House of Representatives.

Like many a revolutionary organ, the DSA acts as a party within a party, and it increasingly represents the youth wing of the Democrats. Elected officials aligned with the group, like Zohran Mamdani and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, look to be the future of the party.

Yet the DSA's ideas are remarkably old-fashioned — so old, in fact, they were refuted by John Adams in 1787. That was the year he began publishing a multi-volume work called "A Defence of the Constitutions of the United States of America."

The book refers to "constitutions," plural, because Adams hadn't seen the new US Constitution drawn up in Philadelphia that year: He was actually defending the state constitutions against French intellectuals who insisted they should be more radical.

That was just two years before the outbreak of the French Revolution, with all the murder and mayhem it would bring.

The old French versions of today's DSA schemers condemned bicameral legislatures for the same reason Mamdani and AOC's fans do now: Their idea of "democracy" called for centralizing power in a single body. No checks, no balances and certainly no federalism — the whole nation was to be personified in an omnipotent unitary legislature.

Adams, who'd been one of the first American revolutionary leaders to call for independence from Britain, was no enemy of popular self-government. But *pure* democracy would be as bad as any other kind of centralized despotism — so he defended the "mixed" constitutions of the states, almost all of which had separate upper and lower legislative chambers and divided legislative, executive and judicial power.

The federal Constitution was drawn up on the same principles — and combined with them with a division of powers between the states and national government.

A glance at how the Constitution has performed for the last 239 years, compared to the chaos and bloodshed that engulfed revolutionary France once the proto-DSA types started getting their way there, shows who was right. But the DSA, not content with dreaming of an end to capitalism, wants to end constitutionalism as well.

Revolutionary parties, like Russia's Bolsheviks, have often had such farfetched goals; the point isn't to achieve them so much as it is to wreck whatever already exists.

The DSA's first step is to radicalize the Democratic Party, making previously outrageous ideas like packing the Supreme Court seem mild by comparison to the Democratic Socialist program. Abolishing the Senate may be politically impossible, but delegitimizing it is a way to de-legitimize obstacles to centralized power — not just the Senate itself, with its equal representation for all states, large or small, but the very principle of federalism.

Why should North Dakota have a government of its own? What gives the people of Idaho a right to govern their own territory?

California has the largest absolute number of Republicans in the country, but because they live in what operates as a massive one-party state, they not only lack adequate representation, but what representation they have can be snatched away by the Democratic majority — as is happening now thanks to the congressional gerrymandering championed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

DSA wants to make the whole country like California, only worse. That's its idea of democracy — the socialist version. It's the revolutionary French version as well, and it's as un-American as anything can be. Yet it's a magnet pulling the Democratic party hard to the left.

Notoriously, the DSA has a disproportionate number of highly educated but low-paid or unemployed members. Like the Marxists of the last century or the French philosophes of the century before that, they're sophisticated enough to seem like they know what they're talking about, if you haven't learned how disastrous their ideas have proved to be in practice.

But US education doesn't teach much about the horrors of Communism or France's Reign of Terror. Radicals occupied the educational establishment early on, and now they're reaping political rewards for the ignorance they've fostered in the public.

According to recent Cato Institute polling, Generation Z (Americans between ages 14 and 29) favors socialism over capitalism 53% to 45%, though the "Democratic Socialist" label polls less well.

Despite having "democratic" in its name, however, the DSA doesn't need majority support to bring about revolutionary change for the worse: A motivated minority is enough when the majority is unaware of its danger.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A_1 A_1 O_1 U_1 T_1 T_1 M_3 RACK 1

A_1 O_1 C_3 L_1 T_1 B_3 K_5 Double Word Score RACK 2

A_1 I_1 O_1 N_1 B_3 M_3 B_3 3rd Letter Triple RACK 3

A_1 A_1 E_1 E_1 L_1 V_4 C_3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 219

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS

A_1 U_1 T_1 O_1 M_3 A_1 T_1 RACK 1 = 59
B_3 A_1 C_3 K_5 L_1 O_1 T_1 RACK 2 = 80
B_3 A_1 M_3 B_3 I_1 N_1 O_1 RACK 3 = 69
C_3 L_1 E_1 A_1 V_4 E_1 RACK 4 = 11
PAR SCORE 150-160 SOLUTION TOTAL 219

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 3
♡ 10 7 6
◇ A K J 8
♣ K Q 9 6

WEST
♠ A 7 4
♡ Q 9 3 2
◇ Q 5
♣ A J 5 2

EAST
♠ 6 5 2
♡ K J 5 4
◇ 10 9 6 2
♣ 8 3

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 9 8
♡ A 8
◇ 7 4 3
♣ 10 7 4

North	East	South	West
1 ◇	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣(!)	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead – ♡ 2

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"So you think Minnie's glasses account for her remarkable plays?" Cy the Cynic asked me.

Minnie Bottoms wears old bifocals that make her mix up kings and jacks, often to her opponents' dismay.

"She's an expert disguised as a little old lady," Cy fumed. "Ever seen a `discovery play' on defense?"

Cy had played at four spades. Minnie, West, led a heart: six, jack, ace. Cy led a trump to the queen and back to his king. Minnie took the ace.

"The defense needed two more tricks besides the ace of clubs," Cy said: "two hearts, or one heart and a club ruff. Minnie led the jack of clubs! I won in dummy, and Minnie next led her ace!"

"She thought she had the A-K," I laughed.

"We set her straight," the Cynic said, "but East had signaled with the eight of clubs. I was stuck in dummy. When I led a heart, East won and led a club, and Minnie won and gave East a ruff."

Minnie's play let her see how to proceed. If East signaled low on the first club, Minnie would try for two heart tricks.

Word Force

MACARONI

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 10** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
PLAYMAKER

alarm	layer	mealy	peaky	relay
ample	leaky	paler	pearl	remap
early	maker	parka	perky	repay
karma	maple	payer	realm	reply

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OZEMPIC **Solution: 10 letters**

D	L	Y	S	H	S	E	T	E	B	A	I	D	E	R
E	I	M	E	U	C	Y	D	O	B	E	I	G	A	C
W	V	E	Y	N	L	A	I	R	T	E	A	G	I	A
P	E	D	E	G	D	C	A	I	T	R	U	R	B	L
E	R	I	E	E	R	I	T	C	O	S	T	D	A	O
N	C	C	G	R	N	E	K	T	D	S	O	E	B	R
S	T	A	A	H	P	N	S	O	A	M	M	Ⓛ	S	I
N	N	T	N	P	T	I	O	G	E	T	E	Ⓛ	O	E
I	E	I	A	A	G	L	L	N	L	T	S	Ⓤ	R	S
E	M	O	M	N	B	U	O	U	E	C	A	Ⓕ	B	I
T	T	N	A	H	C	S	S	S	H	E	A	L	T	H
O	A	L	E	O	D	N	I	K	S	J	D	O	O	F
R	E	A	S	O	O	I	N	E	C	N	A	L	A	B
P	R	E	S	C	R	I	B	E	D	I	U	N	E	M
T	T	E	T	A	R	E	G	I	R	F	E	R	G	S

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Abdomen, Absorb, Appetite, Balance, Blood Sugar, Body, Brain, Calories, Consult, Cost, Diabetes, Diet, Dose, Eyes, Face, Food, Full, Gastric, Glucose, Health, Heart, Hunger, Inject, Insulin, Kidney, Liver, Manage, Meal, Medication, Menu, Needles, Pens, Prescribed, Protein, Refrigerate, Science, Signal, Skin, Storage, Treatment, Trial, Weight Loss
Yesterday's Answer: Interviews

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POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at ***www.SudokuWiki.org***

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 40

© Syndicated Puzzles

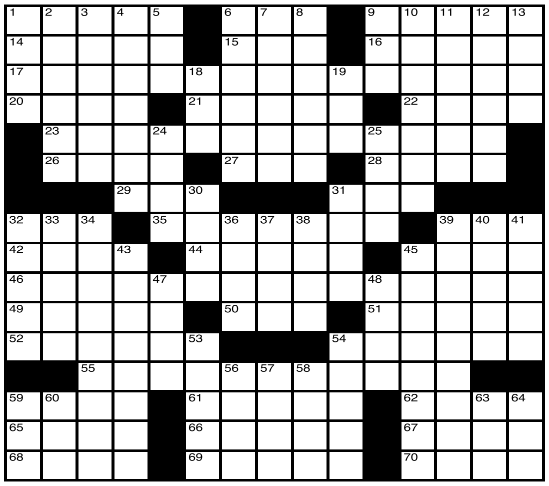
Very Easy #7,355

3		9		8	5			
7		6	1		4	3		
	4							
	7	5		9			1	
	9	8		1		4	2	
	3			6		7	9	
							5	
		2	8		3	9		4
			6	5		2		1

Difficult #7,145

	2		4			5	7	
	5	7				3		
3			5					
	7			6	3			9
1			8	2			3	
					4			1
		5				7	9	
	4	6			1		5	

Quick Crossword



Across
1 Thompson of "Creed"
6 One crunch, e.g.
9 Accord, for one
14 Dined on, quaintly
15 Big bird
16 Año Nuevo month
17 Car named for a California beach city
20 South American monkey
21 In and of itself
22 Toolbar image
23 Carefully considering something
26 Alien-seeking field: Abbr.
27 Pin number?
28 Loch with a legend
29 Mach 1 breaker
31 Author Rand
32 Catch a few winks
35 Cereal-based snack
39 With 59-Down, "Tommy" band
42 Land measure
44 Strong suit?
45 Due, as an apology
46 Home of the Frontier Days rodeo
49 "__ hoping!"
50 Nav. rank
51 __-nez
52 West Texas city
54 Having raised surfaces, as teeth
55 California restaurant opened by Alice Waters in 1971
59 "Hold your horses!"
61 Yank at
62 Pet food brand
65 Like some cheese
66 Revise, as prose
67 Gumbo vegetable
68 Shoppe adjective
69 "Mighty" batter who strikes out in a classic poem
70 Tiny amt. of time

Down
1 Social finesse
2 Standards of right and wrong
3 Stew
4 Sputnik launchers
5 Chad's continent: Abbr.
6 Cave
7 Come to light
8 Antes up
9 Zooplankton habitat
10 Jazz up
11 Frees of frost
12 Leafy retreats
13 Gin or tonic
18 Nail polish brand
19 Came together
24 Cheesehead's st.
25 Semiprecious stone with black-and-white bands
30 Holier-__-thou
31 Well-ventilated
32 __ cheese
33 Was sore
34 Prepare for later broadcast
36 Coastal raptor
37 Marvel Comics mutants
38 Does lawn work
39 Cult classic of 1990s TV
40 Therefore
41 "O, turn thy __ sword another way; / Strike those that hurt, and hurt not those that help": "Henry VI, Part 1"
43 Sun visor
45 Sin of __
47 To be, in Latin
48 Cataloged work
53 Pyramid builders of Mexico
54 Supermodel Crawford
56 Big cat
57 Seemingly forever
58 Zip
59 See 39-Across
60 Shakespearean prince
63 Army fare, briefly
64 Cul-de-__

N	A	S	C	A	R	■	I	A	M	B	■	P	S	S	T
O	C	T	A	V	E	■	S	L	U	R	■	U	P	O	N
W	H	E	R	E	S	W	A	L	D	O	■	L	A	I	T
N	E	V	E	R	■	H	I	M	■	W	E	L	C	H	■
O	B	I	E	■	H	I	D	E	A	N	D	S	E	E	K
W	E	A	R	I	E	R	■	■	U	S	O	■	B	A	O
■	■	■	D	O	H	■	A	D	D	■	■	S	A	R	I
■	■	L	A	S	E	R	P	O	I	N	T	E	R	■	■
A	H	O	Y	■	■	O	P	T	■	E	P	A	■	■	■
R	E	V	■	U	M	A	■	■	M	A	S	T	E	R	S
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	M	A	P	■	B	L	I	P
■	O	W	N	E	R	■	N	I	N	■	T	E	M	P	O
W	I	I	G	■	M	A	D	E	Y	O	U	L	O	O	K
I	N	N	S	■	U	D	O	N	■	U	N	T	R	U	E
T	E	S	T	■	R	O	W	S	■	R	E	S	E	T	S

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Dow Jones Indust. Avg. Down 1,153.18 51,594.14

Nasdaq Comp. Down 433.97 24,442.94

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BMW 8K ax

BMW is looking to shed 8,000 jobs, becoming the latest German automaker to warn that plunging sales in China will hit employment at home. BMW reported second-quarter sales fell 5% as it sold 30% fewer vehicles in China.

Flaring up

The Food and Drug Administration said a cyclospora outbreak it reported last week now has 93 cases, up from 72 a week ago. The outbreak is linked to a not-yet-identified product. A larger outbreak has been linked to shredded iceberg lettuce.

Chipotle cheer

While admitting that cyclospora hurt July sales, Chipotle said it still raised its full-year same-store sales outlook, sending shares higher. Second-quarter sales increased 9.3% to more than $3 billion.

Delta's bet

Delta Air Lines said it will offer a sports prediction game on flights in a partnership with DraftKings, but won't allow gambling. The game will be open to passengers aged 21 and older and allow players to win Delta gift cards.

Time to order

Sandwich chain Jersey Mike's is set to go public Thursday at an $8 billion valuation. The stock will trade on the NYSE.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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WARSH-CASE RESULT

Split Fed holds rates with a lean to increase

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday held interest rates steady in Kevin Warsh's second meeting as chairman — but the committee's vote revealed growing dissent as three policymakers wanted to hike rates instead.

In a 9-3 vote, the central bankers kept rates in the key 3.5% to 3.75% range even as Dallas Fed President Lorie Logan, Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack and Minneapolis' Neel Kashkari tried to raise rates by a quarter point over concerns around inflation.

"I asked for a good family fight and I got one," Warsh, who took over as chairman from Jerome Powell in May, said during a Wednesday press conference.

He repeatedly emphasized the committee's vow to get prices lower, even saying "we will not hesitate to act" — which initially sent the odds of an interest-rate hike at September's meeting soaring to more than 70%.

Blame game

But throughout the remainder of the press conference, Warsh refused to answer how he planned to lower inflation or when he would be ready to raise rates, prompting traders to shrug off that strong, anti-inflation stance.

He also appeared to blame stubbornly high inflation on his predecessor, saying: "This is not an excuse, this is a fact. This board has been in business for eight and a half weeks. The impatience that households and businesses feel [for lower inflation] has been going on for 63 months."

Before the stock market closed, the odds of a rate hike in September were 53.3% — slightly down from the previous day and a virtual coin toss with a hold on rates.

Meanwhile, Warsh argued that movement in Treasury yields — which have moved higher since the Fed's last meeting, despite no movement in the federal funds rate — is a sign that his limited forward guidance is already working.

"Market participants are learning to play the ball, not the referee," he said.

Stocks saw wild swings during his press conference, eventually plummeting after traders took higher bond yields as a sign that the Fed is falling behind in the fight against inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1,153 points, or 2%, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq slumped 1.5% and 1.7%, respectively.

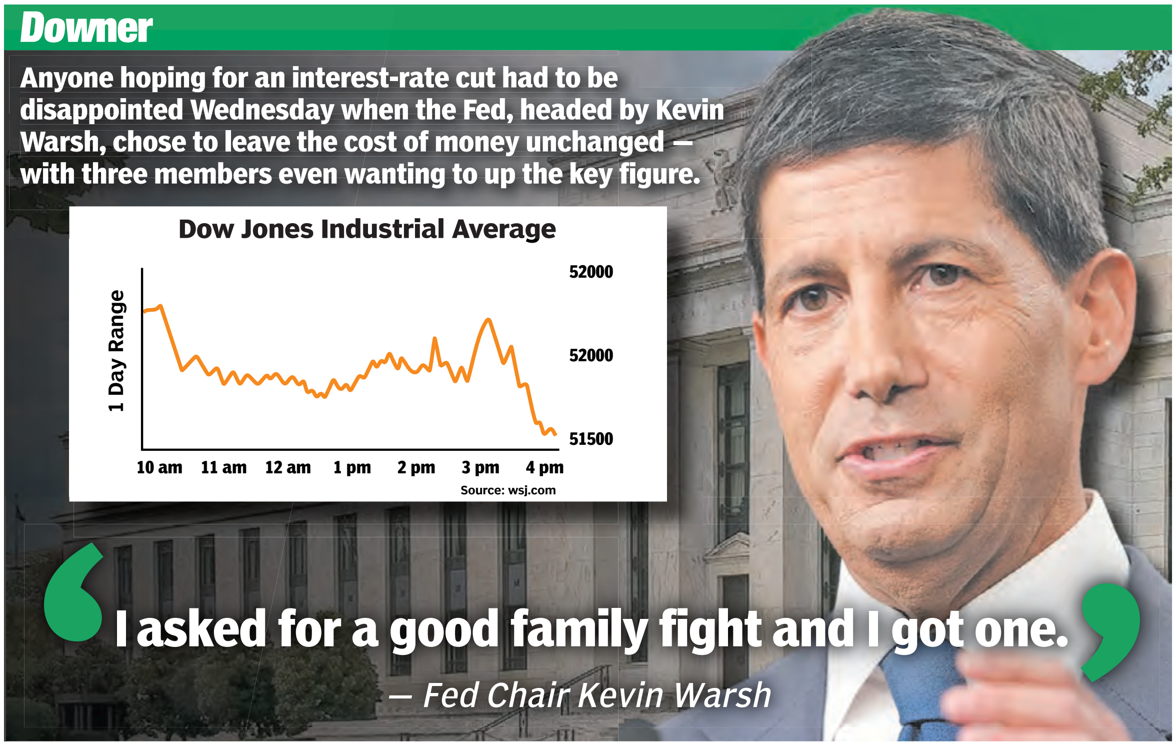
Chris Zaccarelli, chief investment officer for Northlight Asset Management, said Wednesday's decision could be considered a "hawkish hold" since Warsh emphasized price stability and downplayed risks to employment.

But it's possible the Fed could be on hold for the entire year if "the upcoming data shows that inflation is moderating — and this is likely given the high values we saw last year, which will be easier to meet or beat this year (e.g. the year-over-year comparisons become easier)," he wrote.

Logan, Hammock and Kashkari all recently warned that persistent inflation would lead to higher rates. Fed Governor Christopher Waller issued a similar warning, though he voted to hold rates steady Wednesday.

After the war in Iran severely disrupted global energy supplies, raising costs and sending inflation above 4%, some Fed officials — including Warsh — have called for a focus on lowering inflation, which typically indicates a bias toward raising rates.

therzlich@nypost.com



Downer

Anyone hoping for an interest-rate cut had to be disappointed Wednesday when the Fed, headed by Kevin Warsh, chose to leave the cost of money unchanged — with three members even wanting to up the key figure.

> **I asked for a good family fight and I got one.**
> *— Fed Chair Kevin Warsh*

AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, Adobe

Oil spike helps grease skids for marts

Stocks plummeted Wednesday on worries about inflation in the wake of the Federal Reserve's vote keeping interest rates steady — and as oil spiked about 6% amid fears of a protracted war with Iran.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 1,153 points, or 2.2%, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq fell 1.5% and 1.7%, respectively.

It was the Dow's worst day in more than a year.

Fed Chair Kevin Warsh refused to answer how he would lower inflation down the road — in keeping with his philosophy of opposing overly loquacious Fed pronouncements — prompting some traders to wonder whether the Fed will act in time to prevent major price pain in the future.

Mounting fears around a potential AI bubble and concerns that China's technology is catching up to US rivals also continued to weigh on stocks. Stateside chipmakers like AMD, Nvidia and Broadcom sank 6%, 4% and 3%, respectively.

Investors were also spooked after President Trump vowed to retaliate for Iran's surprise overnight missile attacks targeting US troops in Jordan.

Brent crude oil prices surged 6.6% to $90.65 a barrel while West Texas Intermediate crude jumped 5.4% to $84.66 on concerns that a broadening Middle East conflict could worsen an already historic energy-supply disruption. *Taylor Herzlich*

EV Luce lifts Ferrari sales

Ferrari has hit its annual sales target for its first-ever electric vehicle on the back of strong demand from China, the Financial Times reported Wednesday, citing sources.

The luxury sports-car maker aimed to sell just under 500 units of the Luce model this year, and that quota was filled in less than two months since the car's May 25 launch, the newspaper said.

The Italian company's press office declined to comment.

Ferrari previously said it would give an update on the market reception for the Luce on Thursday, as it presents its half-year results.

The $626,285 Luce (right) is a four-door, five-seat family car that has attracted a slew of negative reviews due to its unusual and polarizing looks, largely the work of former Apple designers Jony Ive and Marc Newson.

Last month, a senior Ferrari executive said the car's unconventional appearance was largely dictated by aerodynamic requirements and needed to be "digested" before it can be understood.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal before the car's unveiling, Ferrari Chairman John Elkann acknowledged that the vehicle was a break from Ferrari's past that aims to address the pitfalls of modern high-end EVs.

"It is definitely a car of the future," Elkann said. *Reuters*

'Cut' diamond firm

Group offers only $1B for gem giant De Beers

By ARIEL ZILBER

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but the business just ain't what it used to be for De Beers.

The onetime diamond monopoly is reportedly looking at a $1 billion offer from a consortium that wants to take it over — a huge reduction from De Beers' previous peak valuation of around $18 billion.

The British multinational is in sale talks with a group called Global Diamond Consortium, led by ex-De Beers CEO Gareth Penny, Bloomberg News reported Wednesday.

An ongoing diamond crisis has seen De Beers' valuation plummet to around $2.3 billion as of February, according to the outlet.

Now Global Diamond Consortium wants to pay just $1 billion for the majority stake currently held by mining company Anglo American, sources told Bloomberg. The consortium would pay $750 million upfront, with the rest of the dough transferred later.

Recent years have seen the diamond industry hammered by a variety of factors, Bloomberg noted.

After a sales boom during the COVID pandemic, luxury spending in China, a key market for natural diamonds, plummeted.

Synthetic diamonds rose in popularity, with wedding site The Knot finding that nearly half of engagement stones in 2023 were lab-grown diamonds. Demand for the genuine article nosedived worldwide.

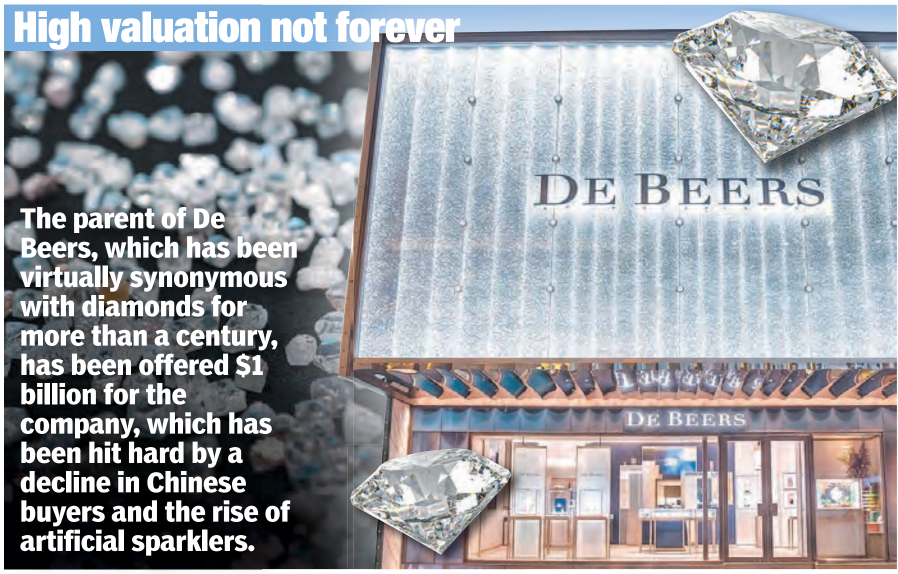
Recent trade tensions and geopolitical tumult have only worsened the situation, Bloomberg reported. Both Anglo American and Global Diamond Consortium declined to comment to the outlet.

"The valuation ... reflects the state of the diamond industry and the belief that the current challenges are long-term and not cyclical," Joshua Freedman, senior analyst for the Rapaport Group, which covers the diamond industry, told The Post.

"It's worth noting that the bidders are seeking outside funding for the deal, so it is dependent on external parties seeing enough value in De Beers," he added.

Victorian imperialist Cecil Rhodes founded De Beers in 1888. Since not long after, the company has been virtually synonymous with the diamond business, for good and ill.

Additional reporting by Lisa Fickenscher



High valuation not forever

The parent of De Beers, which has been virtually synonymous with diamonds for more than a century, has been offered $1 billion for the company, which has been hit hard by a decline in Chinese buyers and the rise of artificial sparklers.

Getty Images/Adobe Stock

Sweet: S'bucks sales up

Shares of Starbucks rallied more than 7% in extended trading Wednesday after the coffee chain reported its fourth straight increase in same-store sales and said that the latest quarter was proof that its turnaround plan is working.

Starbucks' sales in North America led the way and offset a 34% drop in international sales, thanks to an increase in transactions and in the average ticket.

CEO Brian Niccol said the company leaned on new products like novelty sugary drinks and limited-offer items like S'mores beverages that resonated "particularly well" with Gen Z customers, he added.

Overall, Starbucks' fiscal third-quarter same-store sales rose 7.9%, well above analysts' estimates of a 5.7% increase. Total sales ticked down 1.4% to $9.32 billion, but still beat estimates. *Dow Jones*

FTC's telehealth lawsuit

The Federal Trade Commission sued Hims & Hers Health, alleging the telehealth company shared users' information with third-party advertising platforms, despite pledging to protect patient privacy.

The FTC, joined by Utah and California, also alleges Hims & Hers deceived users about its billing and cancellation practices, charging patients before they met with providers and making it difficult to cancel subscriptions.

Hims & Hers disputed the lawsuit and said it would defend itself against the claims.

Shares declined 15% Wednesday.

According to the suit, Hims & Hers shared lists of certain customers, and the actions of visitors on its website, with advertisers such as Meta and Snap, although it claimed its service maintains consumers' privacy. *Dow Jones*

DoorDash plans to drone on

DoorDash for years has rushed online orders from burritos to cold medicine to customers' homes via bike couriers, drivers and drone operators. Now the delivery provider is getting into the drone business itself.

DoorDash on Wednesday said it secured a key certification from the Federal Aviation Administration to make commercial deliveries using its own drones. The company is developing the unmanned aircraft, along with the ground infrastructure and digital systems needed to coordinate order pickup and delivery.

The move takes the San Francisco company, which delivers orders from restaurants and stores, directly into the emerging market for aerial deliveries.

Retailers like Amazon and Walmart have rolled out the option to some customers over the past several years in a bid to speed up the delivery of small items, such as candy or baby formula, by flying over traffic.

DoorDash has offered drone delivery in some areas of the US for the past four years through partnerships with drone operators such as Wing, a unit of Alphabet, and Flytrex. But to date, the company hasn't manufactured its own drones.

DoorDash said it plans to continue those partnerships. *Dow Jones*

War takes toll on P&G

Procter & Gamble gave a soft outlook for its new fiscal year, as it expects to take a $1 billion hit from higher costs related to the Iran war.

The maker of Crest toothpaste and Pantene shampoo also logged a lower profit in its latest quarter, as higher costs and sluggish sales weighed on its bottom line.

Like many consumer-facing companies, P&G is navigating a combination of price-sensitive shoppers and higher costs for fuel and other supplies.

Sales rose 2% to $21.2 billion. *Dow Jones*

SATYA NADELLA
Customer “confidence.”

M’soft floating on *AIr*

Microsoft reported robust cloud growth and a boost in the number of paid AI subscribers, as investors remain fixated on whether the tech giant’s data-center spending will pay off.

Microsoft’s revenue grew 18% to $90 billion in the quarter ended in June, a sign that the company’s AI revenue growth is accelerating and it will continue to spend on data centers.

Net income increased 31% to $35.8 billion. The result beat Wall Street’s expectations.

“This year, Azure revenue surpassed $100 billion for the first time, and Microsoft 365 Copilot reached over 30 million paid seats, reflecting the confidence customers are placing in us to power their AI transformation,” CEO Satya Nadella said in a statement.

Azure remains one of the numbers investors watch most closely as a read on general AI demand.

Shares of Microsoft, which are down about 18% so far this year, were up 7% in after-hours trading. *Dow Jones*

Musk & ad biz settle

Elon Musk’s X and the World Federation of Advertisers said Wednesday they had settled litigation over an alleged advertiser boycott of the social media platform linked to the now-defunct Global Alliance for Responsible Media.

The announcement follows a March ruling in which a judge dismissed X’s antitrust lawsuit that also named Mars, CVS Health and others. *Reuters*

Keep out!

President Trump’s administration is banning humanoid and quadruped robots from China over national security fears and in an effort to help the US artificial intelligence industry continue to grow, the latest move in the AI arms race between Washington and China President Xi Jinping.

> **Advanced robotic devices … could be leveraged by malign actors.**
> **— White House**

Getty Images

US bans Xi bots on security fears

By MARC VARTABEDIAN

The Trump administration is banning Chinese robots in an effort to stem national security risks and help the domestic AI industry continue to grow.

The Federal Communications Commission listed imports of new humanoid and quadruped robots from China — along with connected power inverters, which let the devices connect to the US grid — as verboten. They can no longer be imported, marketed or sold in the US.

“Advanced robotic devices collect data that could be leveraged by malign actors to surveil Americans, enhance the capabilities of foreign intelligence services, or to remotely commandeer the robots,” the White House said a Tuesday statement.

China produces the vast majority of the world’s humanoid robots — one of the latest flashpoints in the artificial intelligence arms race between Washington and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Race to improve

Analysts say China has built a lead in AI consumer applications and AI-enabled hardware thanks to its mass-manufacturing capabilities.

Today, the bots can perform limited basic tasks like greeting customers at a store or simple home chores like folding laundry.

Technologists are racing to improve humanoid robot capabilities, believing one day the bots will be everywhere in homes, schools, workplaces and factories.

The crackdown stems from a national security determination issued Monday by a White House-convened interagency body, which concluded that internet-connected robots could expose Americans to data privacy and cybersecurity risks.

“Advanced robotic devices collect data that could be leveraged by malign actors to surveil Americans, enhance the capabilities of foreign intelligence services, or to remotely commandeer the robots,” the White House said.

In a separate statement, the FCC warned that the machines “could create supply chain vulnerabilities that could disrupt US economic and national security and could create a cybersecurity risk that threatened American critical infrastructure.”

Humanoid robots could become one of the biggest market opportunities in the AI boom, according to Dan Ives, partner and senior managing director at Yorkville Ives.

“This is the golden goose for physical AI,” he told CNBC last month.

ZUCK: OPEN UP AI

Decentralize power

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg blasted the “centralization” of AI in the hands of a few powerful companies and voiced opposition to potential bans on Chinese AI models as he hailed open access to the new tech as a way to unlock prosperity.

Writing in a Wall Street Journal op-ed, Zuckerberg said he is surprised by how much of the discourse around AI “is so filled with doom,” arguing that humans are “fortunate to live at an incredible moment in history.”

“I don’t understand why anyone who believes that AI will eliminate most jobs and much of humanity’s relevance would rush to build that future,” wrote Zuckerberg, in an apparent swipe at OpenAI and Anthropic execs who have warned of mass job displacement.

“The notion that AI is so dangerous that the only safe path is an extreme concentration of power seems dangerous,” he added. “Historically, hoping that an absolute power will benevolently provide for humanity if sufficiently enlightened hasn’t led to safe or positive outcomes.”

The Trump administration is reportedly finalizing an executive order calling on tech giants to submit to a voluntary 30-day review period on new AI models after an OpenAI hacking incident and an ultra-powerful new Anthropic model raised cybersecurity concerns.

In his Journal op-ed, Zuckerberg acknowledged that “There are new issues that we need to think through,” but insisted that “distributing the technology seems like it is creating more value than harm by quite a margin on all these fronts.”

“I think saying, ‘Hey, we want to review stuff for’ — whatever it is — 30 or 60 days, it may not sound like that much,” he said. “But the field is moving so quickly, that actually is quite a meaningful amount of time.”

Oh, the *humanity*

US government officials are reportedly also considering restricting American companies from accessing Chinese AI models, after a top White House tech official accused China’s Moonshot AI of stealing from Anthropic to help create its latest Kimi K3 release.

On Tuesday, the FCC announced a new ban on Chinese humanoid robots over national security risks.

But Zuckerberg said he doubted “banning open-source models from different countries is going to be productive,” arguing that policymakers should instead focus on accelerating AI advancements at home.

His company’s chief AI scientist, Shengjia Zhao, joined executives from Anthropic, OpenAI, Google and other top tech companies in a Tuesday letter urging the US government to help develop safeguards “needed to deliberately pace the frontier of automated AI development.”

Separately, Meta reported record revenue of $60.8 billion for the second quarter, but said minimum spending on its AI buildout will increase by $5 billion.

therzlich@nypost.com

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This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of Newrez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated April 26, 2010, executed by and between JOHN CRAIGMILE and BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 21, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY
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The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 15, 2026

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This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of SELENE FINANCE, LP (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated October 3, 2023, executed by and between KEMAR L. SWABY and JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 15, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY
120 White Plains Road
Suite 215
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 345-3020

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of SINNERMAN RECORDS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/10/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to REGISTERED AGENTS INC: 418 BROADWAY, STE R, ALBANY, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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SEALED BIDS will be publicly opened by the DEPT. OF SHARED SERVICES, COUNTY OF NASSAU, at its office, 1 West Street, Mineola, New York 11501 at 11:00 A.M. (EST) on the date(s) indicated below.
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MSG, YES both leaving Gotham app for DAZN

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

MSG and YES networks are ditching the Gotham Sports App and moving to DAZN as their streaming home beginning this fall in a landmark deal for the London-based platform.

The agreement, announced Wednesday morning in a joint release by MSG Networks and YES Network, will move live streaming coverage of the Yankees, Knicks, Rangers, Islanders, Nets, Devils and Sabres games.

Additionally, 24/7 feeds of MSG, MSG Sportsnet and YES Network will be available to stream on DAZN, as well as on-demand content.

The streams will be available to subscribers within the networks' respective coverage area, and those who already subscribe to either regional sports network as part of their TV package will continue to have streaming access via DAZN at no added cost.

No prices were announced, but a YES Network spokesperson told The Post that the pricing and products under the DAZN deal will be consistent with the current bundled offerings by YES and Gotham on the app at launch.

Gotham Sports App monthly plan costs area sports fans $34.99 and an annual subscription is $299.99, with cheaper options for single-game viewing on MSG Networks, day viewing for YES Network, and monthly and annual plans for the individual networks.

Users will not need to sign up for a DAZN subscription to access any MSG or YES content, but users can add on a DAZN subscription if they choose, the spokesperson said.

The change means that both regional sports networks will be moving away from Gotham Sports, which had been a collaboration between MSG and YES to bundle their sports offerings together in a direct-to-consumer streaming offering.

The move away from the Gotham app is one that drew some excitement from sports fans in the area, after the product received criticism since its launch in the fall of 2024. Users have complained about various issues with the app.

"Why would they get rid of the Gotham Sports app? It's such a well-designed and performing app.......," one user wrote on X following the announcement Wednesday.

"We are victorious in our conquest. The people have prevailed," another user wrote.

"I have DIRECTV Stream. I rarely use the Gotham app. It's very glitchy," a third person explained on social media.

Wednesday's announcement did not specifically say when the switch to DAZN would take place or provide details other than to say the move will come during the 2026-27 NBA and NHL seasons.

Yankees fans will not have to switch apps during the current baseball season, the YES spokesperson also confirmed.

Area sports fans who already subscribe to the Gotham Sports App will not face any interruption to their access to content as the networks prepare to migrate to DAZN.

"We have great momentum with our Gotham Sports App and all of our viewing metrics and subscription numbers," Jon Litner, president and CEO of the YES Network, told Sports Business Journal. "But as we sort of look out into the future, we are always thinking strategically ... [and] we want to make sure that we continue to evolve our product.

"In this case, we have the opportunity to align ourselves with a company that is truly a global leader with a proven track record in digital streaming, in the digital streaming marketplace. And so really what made this attractive to us, it starts with the fact that DAZN has an exceptionally talented management team."

DAZN has been making inroads into the U.S. market in recent years, and in 2025 served as the exclusive global broadcast home for the Club World Cup.

Talks started between DAZN and MSG around five months ago and eventually expanded to include YES, SBJ reported. The outlet reported that DAZN was close to gaining full exclusive local broadcast rights next season for the NBA's Timberwolves, Cavaliers, Pacers, Spurs and Grizzlies, along with a direct-to-consumer deal with the Magic and potentially the Hornets.

"DAZN is a premier streaming platform that operates all over the world and we couldn't be happier to offer our fans this opportunity to watch MSG Networks content on their state-of-the-art platform," MSG content and marketing exec Kevin Marotta said in a statement.

carnold@nypost.com

NEW YORK POST ACTION

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Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Preside (4th)
Lock Record: 7 for 14 (50%)
Meet Record: 36/151 $242.58

1 1 mile; $100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Rain, four to five inches of it, forced a cancellation of Wednesday's card at Saratoga. If they run on Thursday all races will be on the dirt. The Glens Falls scheduled to be today's 8th race, will instead be run on Sunday. You **GOTTA GUN RUNNER** in the opener. Did well to finish 3rd after a wide trip at this distance. Prat on; blinkers on. Choice over the debuting **UNLOCK THE VALUE** (Klaravich/Brown/Franco/Rock Your World). **SUITED CONNECTORS** passed tired horses and debuted 5th of 12 at 37-1. Shorter price here as Clement gives the Tonalist filly another furlong. **INTO THE UNKNOWN** was 2nd in front of the compromised top pick.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Run Flat,111	P Chandra	8-x-x	Goberdhan	20-1
2	Suited Connectors(L),121	R Santana, Jr	5-x-x	Clement	5-2
3	Into the Unknown(L),121	C Elliott	2-2-3	Sells	3-1
4	Unlock the Value(M),121	M Franco	x-x-x	C Brown	2-1
5	Gotta Gun Runner(L),121	F Prat	3-7-5	Abreu	5-2
6	Ready Rosie Jane(L),126	K Davis	8-9-6	Zito	12-1

2 5 1/2 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

Two-year-olds to backend the double. **FIRE MARSHAL** has a race under him. Ran home 5th of 9. One to build on. Irad rides for Maker. Repole's **AUTOSPELL** (Pletcher/Prat/Karkonite), **GAYNOR** (C Englehart/Johnny V/Vekoma), **TOP THRILLER** (McPeek/J Ortiz/Vekoma) and **HONEST WON** (Gargan/Carmouche/Honest Mischief) make career debuts.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Autospell,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Pletcher	3-1
2	Honest Won,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Gargan	4-1
3	Scramjet,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Rice	8-1
4	Top Thriller,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	McPeek	6-1
5	Gaynor,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Englehart	10-1
6	Fire Marshal,123	I Ortiz, Jr	5-x-x	Maker	2-1
7	Solo Stryker,123	C Elliott	x-x-x	Friedman	20-1
8	Smooth Authority,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Giddings	10-1
9	Bet On Zion,123	R Gutierrez	7-x-x	Rodriguez	20-1
10	Never Before,123	J Alvarado	8-x-x	Englehart	15-1
11	Ninuccio,123	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Hennig	8-1
12	Midnight Raider,123	Rider TBA	x-x-x	Friedman	12-1

3 7 fur; $68,000; clm($55,000); 3up

We're **PLAYING TRICKS**. Moves lower and runs shorter for Chad Brown after a midpack 5th. Won lone start at 7 furlongs. **BEDARD** Runnerup last pair, latest at Indiana. Route to sprint for Brad Cox but both wins were earned making 2 turns. Irad picks up the mount. **BARB** Turf to dirt for Maker. Won narrowly last dirt start under Prat. 0 for 3 at this shorter distance. **SHATTUCK** showed 3rd last 3 starts.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Schlomo(L),126	E Zayas	3-7-3	Kantarmaci	20-1
2	Bedard(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-6	Cox	9-5
3	Barb(L),126	F Prat	10-1-2	Maker	5-2
4	Shattuck(L),126	R Santana, Jr	3-3-3	Sharp	8-1
5	Playing Tricks(L),126	M Franco	5-6-1	C Brown	2-1
6	Perfect Force(L),126	J Ortiz	5-3-6	Asmussen	6-1

4 1 1/8 miles; $115,000; mdn; 3up

Sloppy track at Churchill and **PRESIDE** didn't mind. Raced home a fast closing 2nd, a 1/2 length short. Graduates getting more ground. Irad picks him up for Asmussen. **COLLADO HUECO** finished a close 4th debuting at Aqueduct. Like Preside he may benefit getting more ground. **BATTLE** Debut was less inspiring. A distant 6th at 26-1 after a troubled start. Carmouche stays on for Gargan. **HADRIANS WALL** has been 2nd best all 3 starts; twice at this distance. And **PRESIDENTIAL POWER** was a much impoved 2nd stretching to this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Hadrian's Wall(L),121	M Franco	2-2-2	C Brown	3-1
2	Storming(L),121	L Saez	8-x-x	Gargan	30-1
3	Sir Duke(L),121	R Santana, Jr	4-3-x	Kantarmaci	12-1
4	Presidential Power(L),121	J Ortiz	2-6-x	Pletcher	5-1
5	Preside(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	2-6-x	Asmussen	7-5
6	Collado Hueco(L),121	F Prat	4-x-x	C Brown	5-2
7	Battle(L),121	K Carmouche	6-x-x	Gargan	20-1

5 1 1/16 miles; $60,000; clm($25,000); 4up

The **REYNOLDS CHANNEL** is 0 for 4 on turf so the surface switch won't hurt. Shakes lower for Amelia Green after a pair of 4th place finishes. Winner racing for 50k at the Big A last winter. **LATE CALL** is 1 for 16 over the last 2 years, primarily on grass. Neck short at this distance last out. Has 2 dirt wins. Irad rides for Kantarmaci. **FORTUNE SELLER** has a better record on dirt as well. 1 turf win; 3 dirt wins; but 5th of 7 last out. J Ortiz a good sign.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Reynolds Channel(L),121	J Rodriguez	4-4-6	Green	9-2
2	Fortune Seller(L),121	J Ortiz	5-9-5	Rice	7-2
3	Life and Light(L),121	K Carmouche	6-4-3	Pringle	12-1
4	Right to Win(IRE)(L),121	J Velazquez	9-1-3	Robson	6-1
5	Lou(L),121	C Elliott	7-8-8	Mann	20-1
6	Outtawaterbury(L),121	K Davis	8-7-3	Donk	30-1
7	Late Call(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	3-6-3	Kantarmaci	2-1
8	Classic Creation(L),121	D Davis	4-4-5	Terranova II	5-1
9	Ambition(L),123	M Franco	4-5-2	Kantarmaci	12-1
10	Black Powder(L),123	Rider TBA	1-5-1	Kantarmaci	4-1
11	Peek(L),123	Rider TBA	1-7-2	Rodriguez	8-1
12	Sturdy(L),123	M Franco	1-5-1	B Brown	5-2
13	Hey Toby(L),123	Rider TBA	6-4-2	Charlerie	15-1
14	Three Technique(L),121	E Zayas	2-4-7	Kantarmaci	8-1
15	Determinedly(L),123	Rider TBA	5-2-4	Kantarmaci	10-1
16	Sara's Shaman(L),121	Rider TBA	3-4-6	Kantarmaci	6-1

6 6 fur; $65,000; clm($30,000); 4up

KID BILLY Turf to dirt for Rudy Rodriguez. Length short last dirt start. Won wire-to-wire in February. Saez plays catch us if you can. Joe Sharp's **RUN CLASSIC** is the M/L favorite but he's 0 for 7 over the last 2 years. Moves lower after finishing 4th at Churchill. Irad rides. **PRINCIP** was a flat 5th racing 7 panels. Rallied from well back to score racing 6 1/2 furlongs in June at 32-1 under Castellano. Capable. **PAIR OF SOCKS** is now 4 for 9 at this distance after turning in 2nd.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Big Hat Willie(L),123	J Rodriguez	6-5-4	Shivmangal	12-1
2	Run Classic(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	4-4-3	Sharp	9-5
3	Pair of Socks(L),123	M Franco	2-3-2	Rice	2-1
4	Kid Billy(L),123	L Saez	11-3-2	Rodriguez	6-1
5	Factually Correct(L),123	K Carmouche	3-7-1	Samsundar	9-2
6	Princip(L),123	J Castellano	5-1-3	Potts	10-1
7	Slim Slow Slider(L),121	S Gonzalez	2-6-8	Padilla	10-1

7 6 1/2 fur; $78,000; alw; 3up(f)

Rice over Rice. Linda's **PRINCESS NY** has reported home 2nd best last 3 starts. Only 3/4 shy at this distance. Rice also saddles **ADRIAN** who was 3rd behind top pick in May. She's 1 for 13. The win at Churchill back in 2024. **MISS ELLARY** is 2 for 25. Led, gave way racing a route. Runnerup previous 7 starts, including a race at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Accelerated News(L),126	C Elliott	7-1-5	Giddings	9-2
2	Vino Frizzante(L),126	J Rodriguez	3-6-6	Potts	15-1
3	Meg's Foxy Grey(L),126	F Prat	6-5-4	Nevin	8-1
4	Miss Ellary(L),126	T Gaffalione	6-2-2	Robson	9-2
5	Princess Ny(L),126	J Lezcano	2-2-2	Rice	5-2
6	Adrian(L),126	M Franco	4-3-4	Rice	4-1
7	Madeline's Promise(L),126	J Alvarado	3-6-2	Romans	10-1
8	Majestic Return(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-4-2	D'Alessandro	5-1

8 1 1/2 miles(T); $250,000; Glens Falls; 4up(f)

The Glens Falls will be run on Sunday.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Survie(IRE),120	F Prat	x-x-x	Boughey	4-1
2	Storm Miami(IRE),120	J Velazquez	4-2-4	Green	12-1
3	Massarat,120	M Franco	1-4-8	Walsh	20-1
4	Gezora(FR),124	J Alvarado	8-2-1	Mott	2-1
5	Speed Shopper,122	I Ortiz, Jr	7-1-3	Walden	5-1
6	Venencia(FR),120	V Cheminaud	2-6-6	Joseph	20-1
7	Bellezza(IRE),124	J Rodriguez	3-6-6	Clement	8-1
8	Favorite Memory(GB),120	J Ortiz	6-x-x	DeVaux	10-1
9	Lady Firefoot,120	R Santana, Jr	6-4-5	Schauer	30-1
10	Dona Clota(CHI),122	T Gaffalione	1-6-7	Joseph	8-1
11	Alluring Angel(GB),120	K Carmouche	2-8-7	Mott	12-1
12	Bernietakescharge,124	Rider TBA	1-5-2	Schettino	4-5

9 5 1/2 fur; $58,000; clm($40,000); 3up

Sticking with **ABSOLUTELY HOT** even though he is 0 for 1 on dirt. Competes moving lower for Dale Romans. Gets Alvarado back, who was at the wheel for his grass win. **SEEKERS HOPE** MTO, so he's in. Neck short last sprint start. **TAMINO** is 1 of 5 on dirt and didn't appreciate the mud last out. Better at this lower level. Carmouche on the Kentucky invader.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Absolutely Hot(L),126	J Alvarado	5-10-1	Romans	5-1
2	Night(L),126	E Zayas	6-1-5	Lewis	9-2
3	Tamino(L),126	K Carmouche	5-3-3	LaRose	4-1
4	Moment's Notice(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-7-2	Sharp	8-1
5	Out of the Fog(L),126	R Santana, Jr	1-7-7	Antonucci	15-1
6	Strategicoperation(L),122	S Gonzalez	8-4-12	Arriaga	20-1
7	Slay Sadie Slay(L),122	J Ortiz	3-5-5	R Dutrow	6-1
8	Diliello(L),122	M Franco	8-7-1	Morley	6-1
9	Hong Kong Phooey(L),122	F Prat	4-7-4	Rodriguez	8-1
10	Heartily(L),122	K Davis	8-6-4	Ward	8-1
11	Nash Potatoes(L),126	L Saez	5-5-2	Sweezey	12-1
12	Seeker's Hope(L),126	M Franco	7-7-5	Rice	5-2
13	Leo's Reward(L),126	D Davis	8-3-6	Donk	9-2

PLAY OF THE DAY

No turf. No dirt. No races. No bets Wednesday. Buckets of rain forced a cancellation. If they race Thursday, we will play $30 to win on Preside in Race 4. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Yonkers entries for Thursday

Post Time: 6:45 p.m.

FIRST: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Jk Steves Spirit	(YGingras)	8-3-1	6-1
2	Over The Horizon	(BHolland)	2-1-2	8-5
3	All My Lovin	(JBartlett)	8-3-5	3-1
4	Letsmakelotsamoney	(TBter)	1-5-8	3-1
5	Hot Cam	(JMarohn)	5-8-1	20-1
6	ThemaskedcrusadrN	(SZern)	8-6-2	20-1
7	Shore Not Beach	(DDube)	8-8-7	20-1
8	Hank The Hunk	(JStratton)	3-7-1	20-1

SECOND: Mile pace; $18,000; cond

1	Idealinfun	(ASiegelman)	1-1-1	7-2
2	Pine Bush Maga	(TButer)	6-6-3	12-1
3	Cannery Row	(SZeron)	4-5-7	15-1
4	Sunburnt	(CKelly)	4-4-3	20-1
5	Kissin Joe	(BHolland)	6-2-5	8-1
6	Big City Daisy	(YGingras)	2-2-8	4-1
7	Fight Not Flight	(JBartlett)	1-1-4	8-5
8	Spirit Of Pearl A	(JStratton)	2-1-8	6-1

THIRD: Mile trot; $43,000; Invitational

1	Full Of Muscles	(SZeron)	2-4-3	6-1
2	Sir Pinocchio	(JBartlett)	3-7-2	5-2
3	Asteroid	(CKelly)	3-4-2	5-1
4	Green Pastures	(TButer)	5-3-3	8-1
5	Antognoni S	(YGingras)	2-1-1	1-1

FOURTH: Mile trot; $43,000; Invitational

1	Hl Olmaya	(HLandy)	3-4-7	20-1
2	Ma Isabelle	(PLachance)	1-6-5	5-1
3	BayBreezeHanover	(BHollnd)	7-1-6	9-2
4	Hot Flash Kimmy	(CKelly)	3-1-7	3-1
5	MoniBuysHappynes	(Gngrs)	1-3-3	6-1
6	R Lady W	(JBartlett)	4-5-2	7-2
7	Always A Story	(JStratton)	6-1-2	4-1

FIFTH: Mile trot; $22,000; claiming

1	Sunday Shoes	(CKelly)	6-5-1	3-1
2	Stacking Green	(SZeron)	3-3-2	8-1
3	Chef Rocco	(BHolland)	2-1-2	9-2
4	Willy Walton	(JMarohn)	1-2-5	7-2
5	Smoking Jet	(DDube)	6-7-5	20-1
6	Bellissimo Face S	(JBartlett)	2-1-3	2-1
7	Crazyland	(YGingras)	1-8-3	20-1
8	Whiskey Peddler	(TButer)	4-5-5	20-1

SIXTH: Mile trot; $28,000; cond

1	Dribbling Bi	(DDube)	4-3-3	7-2
2	Mississippi Storm	(BHolland)	1-6-6	2-1
3	The Brodster	(JBartlett)	7-7-3	5-2
4	Camera Man	(ASiegelman)	2-4-9	12-1
5	P L Oscar	(CKelly)	8-6-2	20-1
6	Ritson	(JStratton)	4-5-3	12-1
7	Frank Leahy	(TButer)	1-2-2	9-2

SEVENTH: Mile pace; $20,000; claiming

1	Heaven On High N	(JBartlett)	2-2-2	2-1
2	Yorokobi N	(JMarohn)	5-4-4	5-1
3	C-Bet Hanover	(JStratton)	1-7-2	8-1
4	Alta Classic A	(BHolland)	4-7-4	7-2
5	Peace Out Posse	(TButer)	8-3-5	8-1
6	Ever M	(CKelly)	3-1-1	9-2
7	Rolling With Sam	(YGingras)	3-7-3	20-1
8	Mind Hunter	(SZeron)	4-8-2	20-1

EIGHTH: Mile trot; $28,000; cond

1	Torrone	(BHolland)	5-2-1	9-2
2	Massive Desire	(YGingras)	3-8-2	4-1
3	High Speed Swan	(JBartlett)	4-1-3	2-1
4	Blockchain	(TButer)	2-8-6	3-1
5	Wheelzablazin	(JStratton)	7-1-1	20-1
6	Seven Layer	(ASiegelman)	3-1-1	6-1
7	My Man Peter	(SZeron)	2-1-1	20-1

NINTH: Mile trot; $22,000; claiming

1	Beacon Beach	(ASiegelman)	7-1-7	9-2
2	Aquarius Face S	(JBartlett)	1-6-4	6-5
3	Tally The Tab	(DDube)	3-5-1	20-1
4	Voss Blue Chip	(CKelly)	5-1-1	12-1
5	Kays In Charge	(YGingras)	1-2-1	3-1
6	B Nicking	(SZeron)	1-6-2	8-1
7	Radio Lab	(TButer)	5-1-7	20-1
8	Sea Can	(JStratton)	2-4-7	20-1

TENTH: Mile pace; $15,000; claiming

1	GreatSomewhere	(Lachnce)	6-3-6	6-1
2	Dismas	(JMarohn)	5-3-5	7-2
3	J B Gram	(JBartlett)	4-3-3	2-1
4	Minotaur	(YGingras)	7-5-6	5-2
5	Saranac Blue Chip	(CKelly)	8-5-7	15-1
6	Social Theories	(Siegelman)	2-8-1	20-1
7	Well That's Marky	(Holland)	7-5-5	20-1
8	Maximus Red A	(JStratton)	5-2-4	20-1

Wager has WNBA stars in hot water

By JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Leave it to the WNBA to create a potential gambling scandal of its own making involving two of its most high-profile stars.

The league's official X account posted — and since deleted — a video of Wings star Paige Bueckers and Dream standout Angel Reese making a friendly wager of apparently $400 during All-Star weekend practice for Wednesday night's game, the teams' first since the break where Atlanta nipped Dallas 82-81.

The caption of the video reads: "Paige Bueckers on the bet she made with Angel Reese at All-Star Weekend on tonight's matchup."

The video, which was saved and reposted by social media sleuths, shows Reese holding a couple of hundred-dollar bills as they appear to agree to the wager. It's spliced in with someone behind the camera reminding an awkwardly smiling Bueckers of the bet on game day.

"At All-Star Weekend, you and Angel made a bet on this game, is that right?" the camera person asks her.

"We did?" Bueckers retorts before the video of the bet begins.

The video could become quite the problem for the WNBA and embattled commissioner Cathy Engelbert during a time of high scrutiny of sports betting by pro and college athletes, though this was more of a friendly wager that might quietly go on among highly paid athletes. The WNBA's CBA has a gambling clause.

It's stated in Section 5(c) that: "Any player found by the Commissioner after a hearing to have been guilty of wagering (directly or indirectly), or of offering or attempting to wager, money or anything of value on the outcome, score, or any other aspect of any WNBA Competition shall, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner, be subject to a fine, suspension, and/or dismissal and disqualification from any further association with the WNBA."

Engelbert is unlikely to ban Reese or Bueckers, two of the league's biggest stars, for this.

Still, the two, by letter of the law, broke a WNBA rule and could face repercussions, along with whoever posted the video to the league's account in the first place.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	63	44	.589	—	—	7-3	W-1	39-16	24-28
Yankees	61	47	.565	2½	+6	7-3	L-1	26-23	35-24
Boston	56	51	.523	7	+1½	7-3	W-1	25-29	31-22
Baltimore	53	56	.486	11	2½	5-5	W-1	29-27	24-29
Toronto	50	59	.459	14	5½	4-6	W-1	26-30	24-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	56	51	.523	—	—	5-5	W-1	33-21	23-30
Cleveland	56	54	.509	1½	—	4-6	W-1	27-26	29-28
Minnesota	54	55	.495	3	1½	5-5	L-1	29-27	25-28
Detroit	51	58	.468	6	4½	5-5	L-1	30-27	21-31
Kansas City	46	63	.422	11	9½	6-4	W-1	26-27	20-36

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	55	53	.509	—	—	5-5	L-1	28-25	27-28
Houston	55	55	.500	1	1	8-2	W-3	26-27	29-28
Seattle	53	56	.486	2½	2½	4-6	L-1	30-23	23-33
Athletics	45	63	.417	10	10	3-7	L-1	21-32	24-31
Los Angeles	42	67	.385	13½	13½	4-6	L-3	24-31	18-36

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Wednesday

White Sox 6, **Yankees** 5, 12 inn.
Toronto 5, Washington 2
Baltimore 10, Detroit 9, 12 inn.
Tampa Bay 3, Texas 0
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 0
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 1
Houston 7, L.A. Angels 4
L.A. Dodgers 4, Seattle 2
Boston 4, Athletics 2, 10 inn.

Thursday

Yankees at White Sox, 2:10
Texas at Tampa Bay, 12:10
Kansas City at Minnesota, 1:40
Boston at Athletics, 9:40
Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	63	45	.583	—	—	6-4	W-1	32-20	31-25
Philadelphia	57	52	.523	6½	—	2-8	L-3	28-27	29-25
Miami	55	54	.505	8½	2	3-7	W-3	34-23	21-31
Washington	55	54	.505	8½	2	6-4	L-1	23-34	32-20
Mets	46	63	.422	17½	11	5-5	L-1	24-31	22-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	67	41	.620	—	—	6-4	L-1	36-20	31-21
Chicago	61	47	.565	6	+4½	6-4	L-1	30-22	31-25
Pittsburgh	55	54	.505	12½	2	4-6	L-2	29-28	26-26
St. Louis	54	54	.500	13	2½	3-7	W-1	28-31	26-23
Cincinnati	50	57	.467	16½	6	6-4	L-1	23-30	27-27

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	68	40	.630	—	—	6-4	W-1	32-20	36-20
Arizona	57	52	.523	11½	—	6-4	W-2	31-22	26-30
San Diego	55	53	.509	13	1½	7-3	W-5	29-24	26-29
San Francisco	46	62	.426	22	10½	4-6	W-1	26-27	20-35
Colorado	42	67	.385	26½	15	3-7	L-4	24-29	18-38

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Wednesday

Mets 3, Atlanta 2, 1st game
Atlanta 1, **Mets** 0, 2nd game
Miami 8, Philadelphia 6
Arizona 3, Pittsburgh 0
Toronto 5, Washington 2
San Diego 3, Colorado 1
San Francisco 16, Milwaukee 3
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 1
St. Louis 3, Cubs 2, 10 inn.
L.A. Dodgers 4, Seattle 2

Thursday

Miami at **Mets**, 7:10
Cubs at St. Louis, 2:15
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:10
Washington at Atlanta, 7:15
San Francisco at San Diego, 9:40
Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

POST SU DOKU **Puzzles on Page 34**

3	2	9	7	8	5	1	4	6
7	5	6	1	2	4	3	8	9
8	4	1	9	3	6	5	7	2
2	7	5	4	9	8	6	1	3
6	9	8	3	1	7	4	2	5
1	3	4	5	6	2	7	9	8
9	6	3	2	4	1	8	5	7
5	1	2	8	7	3	9	6	4
4	8	7	6	5	9	2	3	1

Solution to Very Easy #7,355

9	2	1	4	3	8	5	7	6
4	5	7	6	9	2	3	1	8
3	6	8	5	1	7	9	4	2
5	7	2	1	6	3	4	8	9
6	8	3	7	4	9	1	2	5
1	9	4	8	2	5	6	3	7
7	3	9	2	5	4	8	6	1
2	1	5	3	8	6	7	9	4
8	4	6	9	7	1	2	5	3

Solution to Difficult #7,145

White Sox 6, Yankees 5, 12 inn.

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	5	0	0	0	1	2	.213
Rice dh	5	1	1	0	1	2	.271
J.Domínguez rf	4	1	0	0	1	1	.233
Sánchez c	1	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Goldschmidt 1b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.258
Jones lf-rf	4	1	2	3	0	2	.226
Volpe ph-ss	0	0	0	1	0	0	.250
Chisholm 2b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.223
McMahon 3b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.210
Caballero ss-rf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.239
Wells c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.159
Schuemann pr-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.209
Totals	**44**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**3**	**11**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.278
Grichuk ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Murakami 1b	4	3	1	1	1	2	.240
Vargas 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.242
C.Montgomery ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.220
Acuña pr-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.245
Benintendi dh	4	0	1	1	1	0	.241
Pereira pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.222
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.250
Peters cf	5	1	0	0	0	3	.272
Meidroth 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.275
Romo c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.135
Quero ph-c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.184
Totals	**39**	**6**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**12**	

Yankees	**400 000 000 010 —**	**5**	**9**	**1**
Chicago	**000 000 130 011 —**	**6**	**6**	**1**

One out when winning run scored. **E:** Sánchez (4), Romo (5). **LOB:** New York 10, Chicago 8. **2B:** Rice (19), Caballero (12), Benintendi (17), Meidroth (20). **HR:** Jones (3), off Martin; Antonacci (8), off Blackburn; Murakami (23), off Blackburn. **RBIs:** Goldschmidt (44), Jones 3 (11), Volpe (19), Benintendi (54), Antonacci 2 (32), Murakami (49), Quero (16). **SB:** Chisholm (30), Caballero (24). **SF:** Volpe. **S:** Meidroth. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 6 (McMahon 2, Sánchez 2, J.Domínguez, Rice); Chicago 4 (Peters 3, Murakami). **RISP:** New York 3 for 16; Chicago 3 for 13.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schlittler	6.1	2	1	1	1	8	93	2.04
Cruz, H, 17	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	15	2.58
Blackburn, BS, 1-3	1.2	2	2	2	1	2	24	2.15
Hill	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.20
Doval, BS, 1-5	1.0	0	1	0	2	0	17	4.54
Yarbrugh, L, 2-1	0.1	1	1	0	0	0	2	4.60

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martin	6.0	5	4	4	2	6	106	3.62
Murphy	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	19	4.39
Richards	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.55
Taylor	2.1	0	1	0	0	1	26	2.47
Hudson	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	11	2.96
Hicks, W, 1-1	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	29	3.19

T: 3:43. **A:** 31,694 (40,241).

Padres 3, Rockies 1

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy rf-cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.293
Carrigg cf-ss	2	0	0	0	1	1	.296
Goodman dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.254
Rumfield 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.293
Castro 3b	4	1	1	0	0	3	.259
Freeman 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Julien ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Moniak lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.279
Tovar ss	2	0	0	0	0	2	.198
Johnston ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Sullivan c	3	0	2	1	0	1	.228
Totals	**32**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**14**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.286
Cronenworth 2b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.213
Machado 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.216
France 1b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.285
Merrill cf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.236
Rengifo lf	3	0	0	1	0	0	.231
Bowen lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.148
Sheets dh	2	0	0	1	0	0	.215
Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Fermin c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.168
Totals	**27**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**3**	

Colorado	**000 000 100 —**	**1**	**6**	**0**
San Diego	**000 300 00x —**	**3**	**6**	**1**

E: Bogaerts (7). **LOB:** Colorado 7, San Diego 4. **2B:** Tatis (21). **RBIs:** Sullivan (16), Merrill (48), Rengifo (27), Sheets (43). **SF:** Sheets. **S:** Cronenworth. **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 2 (Castro, McCarthy); San Diego 3 (France, Bogaerts, Sheets). **RISP:** Colorado 1 for 5; San Diego 1 for 9.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hughes, L, 0-3	5.0	6	3	3	1	2	76	3.33
Bernardino	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.62
Agnos	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	20	6.22

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hart	2.2	2	0	0	1	3	37	4.87
Canning, W, 2-9	3.0	1	0	0	0	4	40	6.65
Peralta, H, 4	0.2	2	1	1	0	1	11	3.17
Rodriguez, H, 7	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	9	2.33
Estrada, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	22	3.32
Miller, S, 28-28	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	0.79

T: 2:33. **A:** 40,714 (40,222).

Mets 3, Braves 2, 1st Game

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Acuña rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.248
Baldwin dh	4	1	2	0	0	0	.279
Olson 1b	4	1	1	2	0	2	.264
Albies 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Harris cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.296
Dubón ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.260
Mateo pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.213
White lf	2	0	2	0	0	0	.231
Yastrzemski ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Bart c	2	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Totals	**31**	**2**	**7**	**2**	**2**	**6**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing cf	2	1	1	1	1	0	.273
Lindor ss	2	0	0	0	2	0	.231
Bichette 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Benge rf	4	0	2	1	0	1	.261
J.Young 1b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.253
Polanco dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.144
Taylor lf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.245
Baty 2b	2	1	1	0	0	0	.224
Semien ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Alvarez c	4	0	1	1	0	2	.262
Totals	**28**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**5**	**9**	

Atlanta	**000 002 000 —**	**2**	**7**	**1**
Mets	**000 020 10x —**	**3**	**6**	**1**

E: Riley (9), Manaea (2). **LOB:** Atlanta 5, New York 9. **2B:** Baldwin (7), Alvarez (8), Benge (14). **HR:** Olson (28), off Manaea. **RBIs:** Olson 2 (65), Alvarez (27), Ewing (27), Benge (41). **SB:** Ewing 2 (14), Mateo (10). **CS:** Benge (3), Mateo (1). **SF:** Ewing. **S:** Polanco. **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 3 (Riley 2, Acuña); New York 6 (Polanco 2, Bichette, Benge 2, Semien). **RISP:** Atlanta 1 for 7; New York 2 for 12. **Runners moved up:** Dubón, Bichette. **GIDP:** Olson, Baldwin. **DP:** New York 3 (Baty, Lindor, J.Young; Baty, Lindor, J.Young; Lindor, J.Young).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Smith-Shawver	4.1	4	2	2	2	4	69	4.15
Fuentes	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	10	2.66
Mederos	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	12	3.65
Dodd, L, 2-1	1.0	1	1	1	2	2	35	2.20
D.Young	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	2.35
Kinley	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	15	4.23

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manaea	6.0	5	2	2	2	4	89	4.42
Brazobán, W, 5-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.61
Weaver, H, 15	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	12	1.88
Willims, S, 15-18	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	4.29

T: 2:34. **A:** 28,493 (42,136).

Astros 7, Angels 4

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	5	1	1	1	0	2	.311
Alvarez dh	4	0	0	0	1	1	.321
Paredes 3b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.254
Walker 1b	4	1	1	0	1	2	.235
Altuve 2b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.234
Allen 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.258
Trammell lf	3	1	1	0	2	1	.239
Diaz c	5	2	4	3	0	0	.247
Smith rf	5	1	1	2	0	3	.204
Spence cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.139
Totals	**39**	**7**	**11**	**6**	**5**	**11**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	1	0	0	1	1	.232
Trout dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.244
Schanuel 1b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.280
Grissom 2b	4	1	1	2	0	1	.264
Adell rf	3	0	2	2	0	1	.244
Meckler lf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.297
Guzman 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Lowe cf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.201
Siri ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.262
Heineman c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.179
Totals	**32**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**2**	**5**	

Houston	**011 003 101 —**	**7**	**11**	**0**
Los Angeles	**300 000 010 —**	**4**	**9**	**2**

E: Schanuel (7), Guzman (3). **LOB:** Houston 10, Los Angeles 6. **2B:** Smith (14), Trout (16), Grissom (14), Schanuel (19), Meckler (9). **HR:** Diaz (7), off Rodriguez; Peña (12), off Rodriguez. **RBIs:** Diaz 3 (26), Peña (31), Smith 2 (38), Grissom 2 (46), Adell 2 (62). **SF:** Adell. **S:** Heineman. **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 6 (Altuve, Smith 2, Diaz 2, Paredes); Los Angeles 2 (Guzman, Trout). **RISP:** Houston 2 for 7; Los Angeles 2 for 8.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wesneski, W, 1-0	5.2	7	3	3	2	4	79	4.76
Sousa, H, 4	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	16	3.68
Okert, H, 15	0.2	2	1	1	0	0	22	2.19
Abreu, S, 7-7	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	18	4.74

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez	5.0	5	2	2	2	6	98	7.98
Farris, L, 0-3, BS, 1-2	1.0	2	3	3	3	1	25	4.17
Yates	1.0	2	1	1	0	3	21	3.76
Suter	2.0	2	1	0	0	1	35	4.26

T: 2:50. **A:** 26,417 (45,517).

Braves 1, Mets 0, 2nd Game

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin c	4	0	2	0	0	1	.282
Acuña dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Olson 1b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.264
Harris cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.293
Albies 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.260
Dubón lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.260
Yastrzemski rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.224
White ph-rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.235
Riley 3b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.212
Jarvis ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.250
Totals	**34**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**12**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Bichette 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.256
Robert cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Alvarez dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Taylor lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.241
Semien 2b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.211
Benge rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Wagaman 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.175
Torrens c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Totals	**29**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**12**	

Atlanta	**000 001 000 —**	**1**	**7**	**0**
Mets	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**2**	**0**

LOB: Atlanta 8, New York 3. **2B:** Jarvis (5). **RBIs:** Olson (66). **SB:** Riley (7). **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 4 (Dubón 2, Jarvis, Baldwin); New York 0. **RISP:** Atlanta 2 for 9; New York 0 for 0.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sale, W, 12-6	6.0	2	0	0	0	9	94	2.08
Fuentes, H, 11	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	17	2.60
Lee, H, 21	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.22
Iglesias, S, 22-24	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.37

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scott, L, 3-3	6.0	5	1	1	1	7	98	2.99
Minter	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	21	2.35
C.Pérez	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	4.97
Duarte	1.0	2	0	0	0	2	27	0.00

T: 2:29. **A:** 22,672 (42,136).

Dodgers 4, Mariners 2

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Young 2b	3	0	2	1	1	1	.259
Arozarena lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Rodríguez cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Canzone rf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.264
Raleigh c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.164
Naylor 1b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.261
Refsnyder dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.143
Raley ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Wilson 3b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.218
Emerson ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Garver ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.179
Crawford ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.212
Totals	**31**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**5**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	3	1	2	1	1	1	.289
Pages cf	4	1	3	2	0	0	.267
Freeman 1b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.302
Muncy 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.256
Edman 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.330
Betts ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.229
Tucker rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.237
T.Hernández lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.247
Rushing c	3	1	1	0	0	1	.257
Totals	**34**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**1**	**7**	

Seattle	**000 000 011 —**	**2**	**5**	**0**
Los Angeles	**101 101 00x —**	**4**	**11**	**1**

E: Lauer (). **LOB:** Seattle 5, Los Angeles 7. **2B:** Wilson (3), Canzone (16), Naylor (15), T.Hernández (12), Ohtani (21). **HR:** Pages (18), off Hancock. **RBIs:** Young (49), Naylor (38), Pages 2 (71), Freeman (53), Ohtani (65). **SB:** Arozarena (20). **CS:** Young (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 2 (Raley, Raleigh); Los Angeles 4 (Edman, Pages, Freeman 2). **RISP:** Seattle 2 for 6; Los Angeles 2 for 7.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hancock, L, 6-5	5.0	8	3	3	1	5	92	3.26
Rucker	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	23	4.58
Wilcox	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	11	3.28
Hoppe	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	5.88

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lauer, W, 6-5	6.0	1	0	0	1	4	87	4.50
Vesia	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	2.68
Scott	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	14	2.47
Díaz, S, 5-6	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	13	10.29

T: 2:31. **A:** 46,065 (56,000).

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2, 10 inn.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	5	1	1	2	0	0	.284
Suzuki rf	3	0	1	0	2	0	.272
Busch 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.241
Bregman 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.245
Happ lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Conforto dh	1	0	0	0	2	0	.242
Dean pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.375
Ramirez 2b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.315
Kelly c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Swanson ss	4	1	0	0	0	1	.218
Amaya c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Hoerner ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Totals	**32**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**6**	**8**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	1	0	0	1	0	.251
Walker rf	5	1	1	1	0	2	.282
Herrera dh	5	0	3	2	0	1	.246
Burleson 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.285
Winn ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.241
Fermín lf-3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.243
Jordan 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.230
Torres pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Church cf	3	1	0	0	0	0	.224
Pagés c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.204
Nootbaar ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Totals	**35**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**3**	**10**	

Chicago	**000 000 000 2 —**	**2**	**3**	**0**
St. Louis	**000 000 000 3 —**	**3**	**7**	**1**

One out when winning run scored. **E:** O'Brien (1). **LOB:** Chicago 8, St. Louis 9. **2B:** Bregman (19), Herrera 2 (17), Jordan (6). **HR:** Crow-Armstrong (24), off Gastelum. **RBIs:** Crow-Armstrong 2 (63), Walker (78), Herrera 2 (46). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 7; St. Louis 3 for 9. **DP:** St. Louis 1 (Wetherholt, Winn, Burleson).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Boyd	7.0	4	0	0	2	5	89	3.41
Webb	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	13	2.72
Thielbar	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	18	3.94
Thornton, L, 3-4, BS, 3-4	0.1	2	3	2	1	0	16	3.03

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
May	5.0	1	0	0	2	3	70	4.38
Bruihl	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3.61
Stanek	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	28	4.35
Soriano	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	22	3.42
O'Brien	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	18	3.59
Gastelum, W, 2-1	1.0	2	2	1	0	0	13	6.00

T: 2:49. **A:** 31,499 (44,494).

Royals 4, Twins 0

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	5	1	1	1	0	3	.237
Thomas cf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.229
Caglianone rf	5	0	2	1	0	1	.251
Perez 1b	5	1	2	0	0	3	.214
Massey 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.270
Loftin 3b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.257
Collins lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.238
J.Rojas dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Marte ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Tolbert ss	3	2	2	1	1	0	.324
Totals	**37**	**4**	**12**	**4**	**2**	**8**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.288
Martin ph-lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.245
Lee 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Clemens 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.243
Bell dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.244
Lewis 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.215
Caratini c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Roden rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.189
Keaschall cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.258
Kreidler ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.246
Totals	**32**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**4**	

Kansas City	**001 120 000 —**	**4**	**12**	**0**
Minnesota	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Kansas City 9, Minnesota 6. **2B:** Jensen (24), Loftin (17), Tolbert (2), Kreidler (8). **3B:** Perez (1). **HR:** Tolbert (3), off Ryan. **RBIs:** Tolbert (6), Loftin (35), Jensen (53), Caglianone (38). **SB:** Tolbert (13). **SF:** Loftin. **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 4 (Marte, Perez, J.Rojas 2); Minnesota 2 (Larnach, Caratini). **RISP:** Kansas City 1 for 12; Minnesota 0 for 2. **Runners moved up:** Thomas, Collins.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Dobnak, W, 1-0	7.0	4	0	0	1	4	101	1.04
Lynch	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	2.00
Cruz	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4.38

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ryan, L, 6-7	6.0	8	4	4	0	4	93	3.52
K.Rojas	3.0	4	0	0	2	4	52	2.51

T: 2:20. **A:** 18,728 (38,544).

Blue Jays 5, Nationals 2

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Piñango lf	5	0	2	0	0	1	.260
Straw pr-lf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.218
Lukes rf	3	0	0	0	2	1	.282
Okamoto 1b	5	2	3	2	0	0	.231
Springer dh	4	1	1	1	1	2	.234
Kirk c	5	0	2	0	0	1	.231
Varsho cf	5	0	2	1	0	0	.247
Clement 3b	5	0	1	1	0	0	.294
Giménez ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Schneider 2b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.150
Urías 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Totals	39	5	12	5	4	5	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	4	1	2	0	1	0	.271
García 1b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.281
House 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Tena ph-2b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.243
Abrams dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.292
Ford c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.200
Lile lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.245
Young cf	2	0	1	1	1	0	.237
Vivas 2b-3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.240
Nuñez ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Totals	31	2	6	2	5	5	

Toronto	000 001 130 —	5	12	0
Washington	000 100 010 —	2	6	1

E: Nuñez (13). **LOB:** Toronto 12, Washington 8. **2B:** Varsho (19), Clement (27), Schneider (6), Okamoto (14), Young (14), Wood (26). **RBIs:** Clement (35), Varsho (26), Okamoto 2 (68), Springer (34), Young (38), García (74). **SB:** Straw (6). **CS:** Okamoto (1). **S:** Young. **RISP:** Toronto 5 for 13; Washington 2 for 9. **DP:** Toronto 1 (Giménez, Okamoto); Washington 1 (Ford, Vivas, Ford).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yesavge, W, 5-5	6.2	3	1	1	3	4	97	3.73
Rogers, H, 23	0.1	2	1	1	1	0	15	1.69
Varlnd, S, 23-23	2.0	1	0	0	1	1	20	0.98

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Littell	4.2	4	0	0	3	2	81	4.94
Kranick	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	17	11.57
Yean	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.25
Ribalta, L, 0-2	1.0	3	1	1	0	1	21	3.69
Schultz	0.2	4	3	3	0	1	32	6.40
Williams	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	15	0.00

T: 2:59. **A:** 20,044 (41,376).

Marlins 8, Phillies 6

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner dh	5	1	2	1	0	0	.243
Stott 2b	2	1	1	2	2	0	.254
Harper 1b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.252
Bohm 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.225
Realmuto c	3	1	0	0	1	1	.225
Marsh lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.280
De La Cruz rf	3	0	0	1	0	2	.571
Crawford cf	3	1	2	0	1	1	.257
Sosa ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.208
Totals	32	6	9	6	4	7	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lopez ss	5	1	2	2	0	0	.329
Hernández lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.241
Hicks 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.279
Edwards 2b	3	0	1	2	1	0	.291
Sanoja 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.265
Stowers dh	3	1	0	0	1	2	.232
Ruiz rf	4	2	2	0	0	2	.254
Navarreto c	2	1	0	0	0	1	.143
Conine ph	1	1	1	2	0	0	.277
Mack c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Marsee cf	2	1	0	0	1	1	.197
Totals	30	8	8	8	5	6	

Philadelphia	002 130 000 —	6	9	1
Miami	000 030 32x —	8	8	0

E: Realmuto (7). **LOB:** Philadelphia 4, Miami 5. **2B:** Stott (21), Ruiz (9), Sanoja (21). **3B:** Harper (3). **HR:** Turner (15), off Gusto; Hernández (16), off Luzardo; Conine (9), off Bowlan. **RBIs:** Stott 2 (49), De La Cruz (2), Turner (42), Harper (64), Bohm (59), Lopez 2 (50), Hernández 2 (43), Edwards 2 (39), Conine 2 (20). **SB:** Edwards (18). **CS:** Sanoja (3). **SF:** De La Cruz. **S:** Marsee. **RISP:** Philadelphia 2 for 5; Miami 3 for 8.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo	6.1	6	6	6	3	5	100	3.57
Johnson, BS, 0-1	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	17	5.51
Bowlan, L, 2-1	1.0	1	2	2	1	1	18	3.11

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gusto	5.0	9	6	6	2	3	79	5.31
Fulton	2.0	0	0	0	2	1	26	4.50
Zuber, W, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	4.76
Fairbanks, S, 15-18	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	6.75

T: 2:29. **A:** 14,350 (37,446).

Giants 16, Brewers 3

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	5	0	2	2	0	1	.271
Chourio lf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.274
Bauers 1b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.267
Yelich dh	2	0	1	0	2	0	.241
Ortiz 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Sánchez c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.214
Mitchell cf	4	0	0	1	0	2	.266
Lara rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.286
Hamilton 3b	2	1	1	0	0	0	.242
Vaughn ph-3b-p	0	0	0	0	1	0	.309
Pratt ss	3	0	1	0	1	2	.284
Totals	34	3	8	3	4	7	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	5	1	4	2	0	0	.331
Basabe ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Eldridge 1b	5	2	0	1	1	1	.250
Ramos lf	5	1	4	3	1	0	.267
Devers dh	4	1	0	0	1	2	.243
Cavanaugh ph-dh	1	0	1	1	0	0	.261
Lee rf	6	1	2	3	0	0	.302
Adames ss	3	2	1	0	1	0	.228
Susac c	4	3	2	4	1	0	.256
McCray cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.154
Rodriguez ph	0	1	0	0	1	0	.240
Gilbert cf	1	1	1	0	1	0	.237
Koss 3b	5	3	2	1	0	0	.161
Totals	42	16	17	15	7	5	

Milwaukee	001 100 100 —	3	8	3
San Francisco	030 007 33x —	16	17	1

E: Mitchell (2), Sánchez 2 (3), Adames (15). **LOB:** Milwaukee 9, San Francisco 10. **2B:** Lara (5), Lee (23). **3B:** Bauers (2). **HR:** Susac (1), off Pannone; Susac (2), off Vaughn. **RBIs:** Turang 2 (66), Mitchell (49), Susac 4 (19), Koss (1), Arraez 2 (43), Ramos 3 (34), Lee 3 (40), Eldridge (26), Cavanaugh (3). **SB:** Ramos 2 (2), Hamilton (20), Arraez (10). **CS:** Ramos (1). **RISP:** Milwaukee 2 for 14; San Francisco 9 for 19. **DP:** San Francisco 2 (Adames, Arraez, Eldridge; Arraez, Adames, Eldridge).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pannone, L, 0-1	3.0	3	3	2	2	2	56	6.00
Patrick	2.0	2	2	2	2	1	47	3.59
Ashby	0.1	3	5	4	1	1	24	3.86
Wilson	1.2	6	3	3	0	0	35	4.87
Vaughn	1.0	3	3	3	2	1	29	27.00

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Webb, W, 6-7	6.0	5	2	2	1	4	96	3.93
Hentges	1.0	2	1	1	2	1	24	2.82
Kilian	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	18	4.46
Winn	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	3.19

T: 3:03. **A:** 35,399 (41,915).

Rays 3, Rangers 0

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Langford dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.278
Duran 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Nimmo rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.268
Burger 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.238
Lopez ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.303
Cauley cf-2b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.256
Osuna lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Foscue 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.264
Carter ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.203
E.Díaz c	2	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Pederson ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.253
Wynns c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.098
Totals	31	0	4	0	1	8	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Y.Díaz dh	3	1	1	1	1	0	.301
Aranda 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.284
Caminero 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.283
Vilade rf	3	1	1	2	0	1	.258
Mesa rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.223
DeLuca cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Simpson lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.290
Williamson 2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.250
Fortes c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.277
Walls ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Totals	27	3	3	3	1	9	

Texas	000 000 000 —	0	4	0
Tampa Bay	300 000 00x —	3	3	0

LOB: Texas 5, Tampa Bay 2. **2B:** Cauley (3), E.Díaz (8), Burger (16), Nimmo (26), Aranda (18). **HR:** Y.Díaz (15), off Gore; Vilade (9), off Gore. **RBIs:** Y.Díaz (62), Vilade 2 (35). **RISP:** Texas 0 for 7; Tampa Bay 1 for 2.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gore, L, 6-9	7.0	3	3	3	0	9	95	4.77
Peoples	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	19	1.93

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Legumina	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	24	3.80
Seymour, W, 7-3	4.2	2	0	0	1	4	71	4.37
Cleavinger, H, 19	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	9	3.41
Kelly, H, 21	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	11	2.17
Baker, S, 29-32	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	20	1.52

T: 2:17. **A:** 14,200 (25,025).

Diamondbacks 3, Pirates 0

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Carroll rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.251
Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Moreno c	3	2	1	2	1	1	.308
Marte dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Kepler lf	4	0	2	1	0	1	.250
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.244
Tawa 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Vargas 2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.275
Barrosa cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.187
Totals	32	3	6	3	2	6	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gonzales 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.315
Lowe 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.253
Reynolds lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.270
Valdez rf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.278
O'Hearn 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.274
Ozuna dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.202
Triolo ss	3	0	2	0	0	0	.245
J.Garcia cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.184
Davis c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.171
Totals	30	0	5	0	2	4	

Arizona	000 201 000 —	3	6	0
Pittsburgh	000 000 000 —	0	5	0

LOB: Arizona 4, Pittsburgh 5. **2B:** Carroll (22), Vargas (15). **HR:** Moreno (8), off Jones. **RBIs:** Moreno 2 (45), Kepler (15). **SB:** Carroll (15), Triolo (8). **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 2 (Carroll, Arenado); Pittsburgh 1 (J.Garcia). **RISP:** Arizona 2 for 6; Pittsburgh 0 for 2.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez, W, 10-3	8.0	5	0	0	1	2	105	2.48
B.Garcia, S, 2-2	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	17	2.17

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jones, L, 2-2	6.0	4	3	3	2	5	77	3.81
Mlodzinski	3.0	2	0	0	0	1	30	3.25

T: 2:09. **A:** 19,716 (38,753).

Orioles 10, Tigers 9, 12 inn.

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward lf	5	1	1	2	1	2	.248
Alonso 1b	6	0	1	0	0	2	.249
Henderson ss	5	2	1	0	1	1	.219
O'Neill rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.207
Beavers ph-rf	2	1	0	0	0	0	.241
Cowser cf	1	0	1	1	0	0	.208
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	6	1	0	0	0	1	.303
Mayo dh	3	2	2	2	2	0	.204
Taveras cf-rf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.226
Jackson 2b	2	1	0	0	1	0	.245
Pozo c	1	0	0	1	0	1	.243
Tromp c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.163
Holliday ph-2b	3	1	2	3	0	1	.260
Totals	43	10	9	10	5	11	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Torres 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.270
Outman cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.162
McGonigle ss	5	0	0	1	0	1	.285
Lee 3b	2	0	0	1	0	2	.272
Keith ph-3b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Malgeri ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.286
Dingler c	6	0	1	0	0	2	.268
Greene lf	4	1	0	0	2	1	.277
Valencia dh	6	2	0	0	0	1	.391
Torkelson 1b	5	2	2	2	0	0	.210
Vierling rf	2	1	2	0	0	0	.207
McKinstry pr-rf	3	1	1	2	0	0	.207
Báez cf-2b	5	2	2	2	0	1	.287
Totals	45	9	10	8	3	9	

Baltimore	000 000 520 021 —	10	9	3
Detroit	003 022 000 020 —	9	10	1

E: Alonso (3), Encarnacion-Strand (2), Henderson (13), Báez (5). **LOB:** Baltimore 7, Detroit 9. **2B:** Vierling (13), Torres (8), McKinstry (10). **3B:** Mayo (1), Vierling (3), Keith (4). **HR:** Torkelson (20), off Garcia. **RBIs:** Taveras (39), Holliday 3 (20), Ward 2 (30), Mayo 2 (40), Pozo (6), Cowser (28), Báez 2 (8), McGonigle (37), Lee (26), McKinstry 2 (23), Torkelson 2 (54). **SB:** Holliday (5). **SF:** Pozo, McGonigle, Lee. **S:** Taveras. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 2 (Pozo, O'Neill); Detroit 5 (Torres, Valencia 3, Dingler). **RISP:** Baltimore 6 for 16; Detroit 4 for 17.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers	6.0	8	7	4	0	6	94	4.27
Nunez	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	13	4.36
Cano	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.21
Wells	2.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	2.72
Garcia, BS, 5-10	0.2	1	2	1	0	0	9	3.09
Wolfram, W, 4-2	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	4.09
Kittredge, S, 4-7	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.48

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skubal	6.2	4	3	3	1	6	92	2.79
Finnegan	0.0	2	2	2	1	0	20	2.93
Anderson, BS, 2-8	1.1	1	2	2	1	2	30	4.33
Jansen	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	18	3.77
Waguespack	1.2	0	2	1	1	0	15	1.80
Sommers, L, 0-2	1.0	2	1	0	0	2	20	4.91
Hanifee	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.98

T: 3:33. **A:** 34,406 (41,083).

Guardians 6, Reds 1

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan lf	5	1	2	1	0	0	.247
Ramírez 3b	6	1	2	0	0	0	.237
DeLauter rf	3	1	1	0	2	1	.280
Martínez rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.224
Bazzana dh	5	1	2	1	0	2	.244
Rocchio ss	5	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Manzardo 1b	3	1	1	2	2	1	.211
Arias 2b	4	1	2	1	1	0	.261
Bailey c	3	0	0	1	1	1	.192
Halpin cf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Totals	39	6	12	6	6	6	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	1	1	.274
Stewart 1b	5	0	1	0	0	3	.253
Myers cf	2	1	1	0	1	0	.270
Suárez dh	4	0	1	0	0	3	.204
Stephenson c	3	0	1	0	1	1	.249
Marte rf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.191
I.Johnson lf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.100
Bleday ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.231
Arroyo 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.244
Hayes 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.142
Lowe ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.255
Totals	33	1	6	1	4	16	

Cleveland	000 040 200 —	6	12	0
Cincinnati	000 001 000 —	1	6	2

E: De La Cruz (10), I.Johnson (1). **LOB:** Cleveland 14, Cincinnati 10. **2B:** Arias (3), Rocchio (17). **HR:** Manzardo (13), off Petty. **RBIs:** Bazzana (34), Manzardo 2 (38), Arias (11), Bailey (20), Kwan (19), Marte (14). **SB:** Arroyo (1), DeLauter (6), Halpin (7). **SF:** Bailey, Kwan. **RISP:** Cleveland 3 for 14; Cincinnati 1 for 10.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cantillo	4.0	4	0	0	1	8	89	3.88
Holderman	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.71
Aleman	0.1	2	1	1	0	1	10	1.93
Sabrowski, W, 4-2	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	8	3.48
Festa	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	4.50
Gaddis	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	14	2.78
Smith	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	25	2.52

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer, L, 5-10	4.1	6	4	0	4	3	100	4.35
Ferguson	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.47
Petty	1.1	4	2	2	1	1	32	4.50
Garcia	1.2	1	0	0	1	1	27	2.45
P.Johnson	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	4.78

T: 2:56. **A:** 17,084 (43,891).

Champions Tour Schedule

Jan. 22-24 — Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai (Stewart Cink)
Feb. 13-15 — Chubb Classic (David Toms)
March 6-8 — James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational (Zach Johnson)
March 20-22 — Cologuard Classic (Steven Alker)
March 27-29 — Hoag Classic (Stewart Cink)
April 16-19 — Senior PGA Championship (Stewart Cink)
April 24-26 — Mitsubishi Electric Classic (Retief Goosen)
April 30-May 3 — Regions Tradition (Stewart Cink)
May 8-10 — Insperity Invitational (Boo Weekley)
May 21-23 — Trophy Hassan II (Scott Hend)
June 5-7 — American Family Insurance Championship (D.Clarke/B.Crane)
June 12-14 — Principal Charity Classic (Zach Johnson)
June 26-28 — DICK'S Open (Dicky Pride)
July 2-5 — U.S. Senior Open Championship (Padraig Harrington)
July 9-12 — Kaulig Companies Championship (Zach Johnson)
July 23-26 — ISPS HANDA Senior Open (Jerry Kelly)
July 31-Aug. 2 — Portugal Invitational, Quarteira, Portugal
Aug. 14-16 — Boeing Classic, Snoqualmie, Wash.
Aug. 21-23 — Rogers Charity Classic, Calgary, Alberta
Aug. 28-30 — The Ally Challenge, Grand Blanc, Mich.
Sept. 11-13 — Sanford International, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Sept. 18-20 — PURE Insurance Championship, Pebble Beach, Calif.

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	18	10	.643	—
Atlanta	17	10	.630	½
Liberty	16	12	.571	2
Washington	15	12	.556	2½
Toronto	10	17	.370	7½
Chicago	9	18	.333	8½
Connecticut	7	21	.250	11

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	23	6	.793	—
Las Vegas	19	8	.704	3
Golden State	19	9	.679	3½
Dallas	18	10	.643	4½
Portland	11	17	.393	11½
Los Angeles	10	17	.370	12
Phoenix	11	18	.379	12
Seattle	6	24	.200	17½

Wednesday
Atlanta 82, Dallas 81
Phoenix 91, Golden State 89

Thursday
Liberty at Las Vegas, 10pm
Connecticut at Chicago, 8pm
Minnesota at Toronto, 8pm

Friday
Dallas at Washington, 7:30pm
Seattle at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Indiana at Portland, 10pm

Saturday
Liberty at Phoenix, 3pm
Las Vegas at Chicago, 1pm

Tennis

WTA Mubadala Citi DC Open

At William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center; Washington DC, United States; Purse: $2,488,125; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; Wednesday (seedings in parentheses):

Men's Singles - Round of 32
Alex de Minaur (1), Australia, def. Stefanos Tsitsipas, Greece, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Men's Singles - Round of 16
Lorenzo Musetti (4), Italy, def. Aleksandar Vukic, Australia, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.
Taylor Fritz (3), United States, def. Kamil Majchrzak, Poland, 6-3, 6-4.

Women's Singles - Round of 16
Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-2, 6-2.
Alexandra Eala, Philippines, def. Leylah Fernandez (7), Canada, 6-2, 7-6 (1).
Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, def. Emma Navarro (8), United States, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.
Naomi Osaka (3), Japan, def. Ashlyn Krueger, United States, 6-3, 3-1, ret.

Men's Doubles - Quarterfinals
Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek, United States, def. Christian Harrison, United States, and Neal Skupski (2), Britain, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Women's Doubles - Quarterfinals
Aldila Sutjiadi, Indonesia, and Erin Routliffe (2), New Zealand, def. Alana Smith and Clervie Ngounoue, United States, 6-3, 6-2.
Zhang Shuai, China, and Janice Tjen (3), Indonesia, def. Miyu (1994) Kato, Japan, and Giuliana Olmos, Mexico, 4-6, 6-2, 10-0.
Xu Yifan and Qianhui Tang, China, def. Venus Williams, United States, and Diana Shnaider, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.

ATP World Tour Los Cabos Open

At Solaz Resort & Spa Los Cabos; Los Cabos, Mexico; Purse: $909,790; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor;seedings in parentheses):

Men's Singles - Round of 16
Jenson Brooksby, United States, def. Edward Winter, Australia, 6-3, 6-4.
Francisco Cerundolo (3), Argentina, def. Tristan Boyer, United States, 6-7 (4), 4-3, ret.
Coleman Wong, Hong Kong, China, def. Jiri Lehecka (1), Czechia, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Denis Shapovalov (8), Canada, def. Rodrigo Pacheco Mendez, Mexico, 6-3, 6-2.

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	3	39	33	12
Inter Miami CF	11	2	4	37	43	30
New England	9	5	2	29	26	19
Chicago	8	6	2	26	30	22
NYCFC	7	6	4	25	30	23
Charlotte FC	7	6	4	25	28	25
Cincinnati	6	6	5	23	41	42
Red Bulls	6	7	4	22	26	37
D.C. United	5	5	7	22	24	27
Orlando City	6	9	2	20	28	44
Columbus	5	8	4	19	24	26
Toronto FC	3	7	7	16	23	31
CF Montréal	4	10	3	15	22	33
Philadelphia	3	10	4	13	22	31
Atlanta	3	11	3	12	17	30

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	3	33	37	16
Los Angeles FC	10	5	3	33	34	18
San Jose	10	4	3	33	35	20
Real Salt Lake	8	6	2	26	28	24
Houston	8	6	2	26	23	24
FC Dallas	7	5	5	26	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	4	25	23	23
Seattle FC	7	6	3	24	19	20
Minn. United	6	6	5	23	19	24
Portland	6	8	3	21	31	32
LA Galaxy	5	7	6	21	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	5	20	31	28
Colorado	6	10	1	19	26	25
Austin FC	4	8	5	17	22	35
Sporting K.C.	4	11	2	14	18	44

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Friday
Toronto FC at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm

Saturday
Orlando City at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
San Jose at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Nashville at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Columbus at Miami, 7:30pm
New England at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Chicago, 8:30pm
Houston at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
San Diego FC at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Salt Lake at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Austin FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Seattle FC at Portland, 10:30pm

Saturday, August 8
Houston at New England, 4:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	11	3	3	36	26	12
Gotham FC	**10**	**3**	**4**	**34**	**22**	**12**
Utah Royals FC	9	5	3	30	26	18
San Diego	9	6	2	29	23	19
Portland	8	5	4	28	27	20
Kansas City	9	7	1	28	28	24
Orlando	7	8	2	23	22	21
Angel City	7	7	1	22	23	16
North Carolina	6	6	3	21	21	23
Seattle	6	7	2	20	17	19
Denver Summit FC	5	6	4	19	21	20
Houston	5	7	4	19	19	24
Boston Legacy FC	5	8	4	19	18	23
Bay FC	5	8	3	18	16	21
Chicago	4	12	0	12	8	31
Louisville	3	11	2	11	19	33

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday
Kansas City 5, Louisville 1
Washington 1, Utah Royals FC 0
Gotham FC 1, Bay FC 0

Friday
Orlando at North Carolina, 8pm

Saturday
Chicago at Louisville, 4pm
Angel City at Kansas City, 6:30pm
Gotham FC at Houston, 8pm
Seattle at Bay FC, 8:45pm

Sunday
San Diego at Washington, 4pm
Portland at Utah Royals FC, 7pm
Boston Legacy FC at Denver Summit FC, 9pm

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The POST Line

MLB
Thursday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	**-108-114**	WHITE SOX
METS	**$108-135**	Marlins
Rangers	**$101-124**	RAYS
TWINS	**$116-136**	Royals
Red Sox	**$134-158**	ATHLETICS
Cubs	**-104-118**	CARDINALS
Pirates	**-104-112**	REDS
BRAVES	**$120-142**	Nationals
PADRES	**$106-124**	Giants
DODGERS	**$125-157**	Mariners

Home team in CAPS

TBT Tournament
Thursday- Las Vegas Championship

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Davis Steel	**3.5 (145.5)**	The Mecca

game held in Las Vegas

WNBA
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ACES	**4.5 (181.5)**	**Liberty**
Lynx	**11.5 (186.5)**	TEMPO
SKY	**3.5 (174.5)**	Sun

NFL-Preseason
Thursday, August 6

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Panthers	**1.5 (36.5)**	Cardinals

game held in Canton, OH

CFL
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
BLUE BOMBERS	**7.5 (54.5)**	Lions
	Friday	
Alouettes	**7 (60.5)**	REDBLACKS
	Saturday	
Stampeders	**5.5 (60.5)**	TIGER-CATS
ELKS	**1.5 (60.5)**	Roughriders

TOP PLAY

Count on LA to clock Mariners

By ERICH RICHTER

Two preseason World Series favorites will finish their three-game set Thursday night.

Despite winning the opening game of this series, the Mariners have been a disappointment this year — sitting just under .500 for the season — and have opened as +128 underdogs for Thursday's game against the Dodgers.

The Mariners send one of their starring pitchers to the mound Thursday night as Bryce Miller (4-5, 2.75 ERA) gets the ball opposite Roki Sasaki (4-5, 4.71 ERA).

While Sasaki looks to be the weak link of this pitching matchup, he's actually on arguably the best stretch of his short MLB career.

The 24-year-old just twirled seven innings of one-run ball against the Mets last Friday, where he struck out nine batters in one of the best starts of his young career.

There are some stories floating around that a new-sized glove is to credit for his turnaround, as the Dodgers believed he was tipping his pitches.

In his past three starts, he's allowed just four earned runs in 18 ²/₃ innings (1.93 ERA).

Meanwhile, Miller has struggled and even had some lowered velocity late in his starts, perhaps pointing to some fatigue setting in for the Mariners' hulking starter who hasn't been fully healthy since 2024.

Miller had been Seattle's best pitcher prior to his past three starts, where he's allowed 11 earned runs in 16 innings (5.94 ERA), and he failed to strike out a batter last time out.

For that reason, I'm backing the Dodgers on Thursday, with a bet on the Dodgers to win -1.5 on the run line, and I also like a bet on the Dodgers Over 2.5 total runs in the first five innings of Thursday's contest.

Sasaki's strikeout total prop is not yet released, though it's opened at 5.5 in seven of his past eight starts, so we'll figure it starts there despite striking out nine last time.

Target over on Sasaki's strikeout total and take a stab at over 7.5 strikeouts at some bigger odds.

THE PLAYS: Dodgers -1.5 (+135, BetMGM) Over 2.5 runs scored by Los Angeles in the first five innings (-110, Caesars); Sasaki Over strikeouts

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: Gotham FC earns road win

Midge Purce scored in the third minute off an assist from **Jaelin Howell** and Gotham FC went on to earn a 1-0 victory over Bay FC in an NWSL match held in San Jose, Calif.

Shelby Hogan made three saves as Gotham FC (10-3-4, 34 points) moved into first place ahead of the Washington Spirit.

● In Charlotte, N.C., **Son Heung-min** scored two goals in a three-minute span in the first half off assists from **Carles Gil** to propel the MLS All-Stars past the Liga MX All-Stars 4-3 in the MLS All-Star Game.

MLB: Skubal foiled in Detroit

Colton Cowser hit a tiebreaking single in the 12th inning, capping the Orioles rally from a seven-run deficit to beat the Tigers 10-9 and spoil **Tarik Skubal'**s possible farewell to Detroit.

Fans gave Skubal, a hot target ahead of Monday's trade deadline, several standing ovations as he took a shutout into the seventh inning, but Baltimore pounced on the Tigers bullpen.

● In Miami, **Griffin Conine** delivered a go-ahead pinch-hit homer in the eighth and the Marlins rallied to beat the Phillies 8-6.

● In St. Louis, **Iván Herrera** had a two-run double with one out in the 10th inning to give the Cardinals a 3-2 comeback victory over the Cubs.

● In St. Petersburg, Fla., **Yandy Díaz** and **Ryan Vilade** homered in the first inning and five pitchers combined for a four-hitter as the Rays beat the Rangers 3-0.

● In Washington, **Trey Yesavage** allowed one run in 6 ²/₃ innings and the Blue Jays defeated the Nationals 5-2.

● In San Francisco, **Luis Arraez** had four of San Francisco's 17 hits, **Daniel Susac** hit his first two homers in the majors and the Giants routed the Brewers 16-3.

● In Cincinnati, **Kyle Manzardo** homered and drove in two runs, and the Guardians beat the Reds 6-1 to claim the season series from their in-state rivals.

NFL: Browns give Delpit $48M deal

Grant Delpit has agreed to a three-year extension with the Cleveland Browns, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The safety's extension is worth $48 million, including $35 million guaranteed.

● **Taysom Hill**'s run in New Orleans is over. The longtime Saints fan favorite announced he would not return to the franchise after nine seasons, though it doesn't appear he's ready to hang up his cleats.

Hill, who turns 36 in August, finished his New Orleans tenure with 2,551 rushing yards, 2,426 passing yards and 1,034 receiving yards.

● The Falcons quarterback competition will have to wait another day after coach **Kevin Stefanski** said **Tua Tagovailoa** sustained a minor injury, and he'll be back "sooner rather than later."

NHL: Celebrini becomes richest player

Sharks superstar **Macklin Celebrini** signed a five-year, $94 million contract extension that will make him the highest-paid player in the NHL. Celebrini had one year remaining on his three-year, $2.925 million entry-level contract before signing the deal that keeps him locked up with the Sharks through the 2031-32 season.

NCAA: Carter suspended two games

Tennessee senior linebacker **Arion Carter** will miss the first two games of the season because of an NCAA suspension tied to an agent paying for a $427 flight to an NFL training facility during the predraft process.

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026 W-L	2026 ERA	*REC	'25 vs OPP W-L	'25 vs OPP ERA	CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS W-L	LAST 3 STARTS IP	LAST 3 STARTS ERA
Yankees	Weathers (L)		4-7	4.25	10-10	0-0	1.42	0-0	1-0	15.2	4.02
White Sox	Burke (R)	(2:10pm)	7-5	3.19	8-9	1-0	1.23	1-0	2-1	19.2	1.37
Marlins	Pérez (R)		5-8	3.56	8-10	1-0	1.42	1-3	0-2	19.0	2.37
Mets	McLean (R)	(7:10pm)	7-7	3.32	9-12	1-0	1.80	1-0	1-2	18.0	1.00
Mariners	Miller (R)		4-5	2.75	4-7	0-1	9.00	0-1	0-3	16.0	6.19
Dodgers	Sasaki (R)	(10:10pm)	4-5	4.71	10-8	—	—	0-0	1-0	18.2	1.93
Rangers	Eovaldi (R)		10-8	4.05	12-8	0-0	0.00	9-6	1-1	17.0	4.24
Rays	McClanahan (L)	(12:10pm)	9-6	3.09	11-8	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-1	16.1	3.31
Royals	Cameron (L)		5-8	4.93	5-14	2-0	0.82	3-0	1-2	17.0	6.88
Twins	Ober (R)	(1:40pm)	7-3	4.56	9-6	0-0	0.00	1-5	1-0	14.1	4.40
Red Sox	Gray (R)		12-2	2.78	14-5	0-1	10.50	2-1	2-1	17.0	3.71
Athletics	TBD	(9:40pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cubs	Imanaga (L)		7-8	3.72	10-11	0-2	6.30	2-3	2-1	18.0	0.50
Cardinals	Pallante (R)	(2:15pm)	11-6	3.77	12-8	1-0	4.15	1-4	1-1	17.1	4.67
Pirates	Ramírez (R)		6-3	3.21	0-0	1-0	1.93	0.00	0-0	0.0	0.00
Reds	Lowder (R)	(7:10pm)	3-7	5.61	6-9	0-1	54.00	1-1	0-2	12.0	12.00
Nationals	Irvin (R)		2-4	5.23	6-5	1-1	2.70	3-3	1-0	12.0	5.25
Braves	Holmes (R)	(7:15pm)	6-4	3.79	13-6	0-1	3.60	0-1	1-0	15.0	3.60
Giants	Ray (L)		9-6	3.16	12-8	2-1	2.75	7-7	1-0	15.0	1.20
Padres	TBD	(9:40pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Weathers great in Windy City

In just two weeks "The Odyssey" has grossed an estimated $640 million. Impressive. Right, Dr. Fauci? "On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer based on my rights under the Fifth Amendment."

NFL training camps are opening this week. Think the Jets and Giants will be competitive this year, Dr. Fauci? "On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer based on my rights under the Fifth Amendment."

The injury-depleted Yanks are in Chicago. Ryan Weathers has allowed three runs in his past 17 road innings. The White Sox's Sean Burke has given up eight runs in his past 44 innings. We saw the Mariners' George Kirby give up seven runs Monday. Who do you like, Dr. Fauci? "On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer based on my rights under the Fifth Amendment." $50 on the Yanks.

-$

Back-to-back debacles. K.C. gave up runs in the ninth inning and lost on Tuesday. The Cubs gave up three runs in the 10th inning and lost to the Cards 3-2. Down -386 pardonmeboys.

stitches@nypost.com

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 30	FRI July 31	SAT Aug. 1	SUN Aug. 2	MON Aug. 3
	White Sox 2:10 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Cubs 2:20 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Cubs 7:15 Fox 660 AM 101.9 FM	Cubs 2:20 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	St. Louis 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Miami 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Miami 7:10 PIX11 880 AM	Miami 4:10 SNY 880 AM	Miami 1:40 SNY 880 AM	NO GAME
	Las Vegas 10:00 Prime Video	NO GAME	Phoenix 3:00 ABC	NO GAME	Seattle 7:00 My9

Saturday	Friday	Saturday
Orlando City SC 7:30 Apple TV	Toronto FC 7:30 Apple TV	Houston Dash 8:00 NWSL+

Today's Sports on the Air

	MLB BASEBALL	
2 p.m.	Royals at Twins (joined in progress)	MLBN
2:10 p.m.	Yankees at White Sox	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
7 p.m.	Nationals at Braves	ESPN
7:10 p.m.	Marlins at Mets	SNY, 880 AM
10 p.m.	Mariners at Dodgers	MLBN
	WNBA BASKETBALL	
8 p.m.	Lynx at Tempo	Prime Video
10 p.m.	Liberty at Aces	Prime Video
	GOLF	
8 a.m.	LPGA Tour: AIG Women's Open, 1st Round	USA
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: Rocket Classic, 1st Round	Golf
6 p.m.	Korn Ferry Tour: Utah Championship, 1st Round	Golf
4 a.m. (Fri.)	LPGA Tour: AIG Women's Open, 2nd Round	Golf
	TBT BASKETBALL	
7 p.m.	Las Vegas Championship: Davis Steel vs. The Mecca	FS1
	MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL	
6:30 p.m.	Richmond Flying Squirrels at Somerset Patriots	YES
	MEN'S SOCCER	
7:30 p.m.	Club Friendly: Sunderland vs. Leeds United	ESPN2
8:50 p.m.	CONCACAF U-20 Championship Group Stage: Mexico vs. Guatemala	FS2
	TENNIS	
11 a.m.	ATP/WTA Washington D.C.:Early Rounds	Tennis
10 p.m.	ATP Los Cabos: Quarterfinals	Tennis
	HORSE RACING	
8 a.m.	Qatar Sussex Stakes	FS2
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
4 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
	SWIMMING	
9 p.m.	USAS: 2026 Toyota National Championships	NBCSN
	MEN'S RUGBY	
5:55 a.m.(Fri.)	NRL: Canterbury-Bankstown at Melbourne	FS2

NFL

Favorites to win 2026 awards

MVP	ODDS	COACH OF YEAR	ODDS
Josh Allen	+650	John Harbaugh	+600
Lamar Jackson	+850	Jesse Minter	+750
Joe Burrow	+900	Joe Brady	11/1
Patrick Mahomes	10/1	Robert Saleh	12/1
Justin Herbert	12/1	Kellen Moore	12/1
Dak Prescott	14/1	Mike McCarthy	14/1
Drake Maye	14/1	Kevin Stefanski	15/1

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF YEAR	ODDS	DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF YEAR	ODDS
Jahmyr Gibbs	+650	Myles Garrett	+400
Bijan Robinson	+850	Will Anderson Jr.	+700
Ja'Marr Chase	10/1	Aidan Hutchinson	+900
Christian McCaffrey	12/1	Maxx Crosby	11/1
Puka Nacua	12/1	Nick Bosa	14/1
Jaxon Smith-Njigba	15/1	Nik Bonitto	14/1
Saquon Barkley	15/1	T.J. Watt	18/1

ODDS & ENDS

NFL

Favorites to win AFC Championship

TEAM	ODDS
Ravens	+500
Bills	+500
Chiefs	+750
Chargers	+800
Patriots	+850
Texans	+900
Broncos	10/1
Bengals	10/1
Jaguars	13/1
Colts	25/1
Steelers	35/1
Titans	66/1
Raiders	66/1
Browns	80/1
Jets	125/1
Dolphins	150/1

Favorites to win NFC Championship

TEAM	ODDS
Rams	+300
Seahawks	+550
Lions	+900
49ers	+900
Packers	10/1
Eagles	10/1
Cowboys	12/1
Bears	13/1
Vikings	22/1
Buccaneers	25/1
Commanders	30/1
Giants	35/1
Falcons	40/1
Saints	45/1
Panthers	50/1
Cardinals	200/1

Favorites to be AFC No. 1 seed

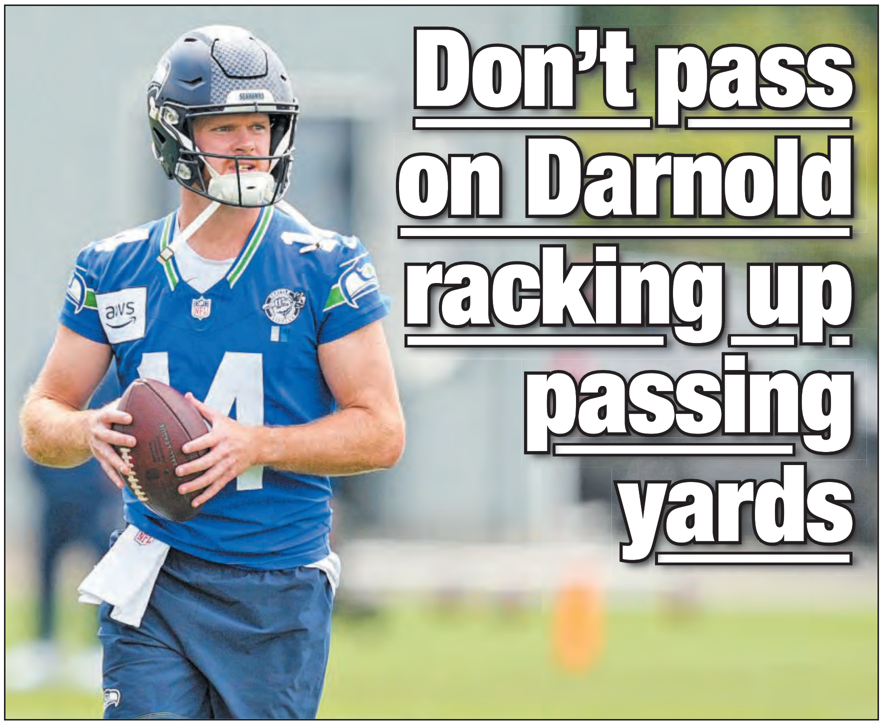
TEAM	ODDS
Ravens	+400
Bills	+500
Patriots	+800
Bengals	+800
Chiefs	+800
Chargers	+900
Texans	+900
Broncos	10/1
Jaguars	15/1
Colts	25/1
Steelers	25/1
Titans	66/1
Raiders	100/1
Jets	100/1
Browns	100/1
Dolphins	150/1

Favorites to be NFC No. 1 seed

TEAM	ODDS
Rams	+280
Seahawks	+575
Lions	+750
Eagles	+850
49ers	+850
Packers	10/1
Bears	12/1
Cowboys	15/1
Vikings	22/1
Buccaneers	25/1
Commanders	30/1
Saints	40/1
Falcons	40/1
Panthers	40/1
Giants	50/1
Cardinals	300/1

BET SMART

Don't pass on Darnold racking up passing yards



AP

DON'T BE SKEPTICAL OF SAM: Sam Darnold is a bargain at 28/1 to lead the NFL in passing yards, especially since he's coming off a Super Bowl victory and several of the quarterbacks with better odds are coming off injuries or are inexperienced.

By MALIK SMITH

The 2025 season was one of redemption for Seahawks quarterback Sam Darnold. Going into the start of last year, skepticism remained about his ability to play at a high level at the quarterback position.

After failing with the Jets and Panthers, then becoming a backup with the 49ers, he finally had a breakout season at age 27 in his lone campaign with the Vikings in 2024. But that season ended with him looking overmatched in the playoffs and searching for yet another new team.

With the Seahawks, Darnold finally fulfilled the promise that made him the No. 3 overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft. Seattle's defense was amazing, but Darnold wasn't just along for the ride en route to a Super Bowl win, he was driving the bus.

Despite his successful career turn over the past two seasons, sportsbooks still don't view Darnold as one of the league's top passers.

Darnold is 28/1 to lead the NFL in passing yards this season. According to the books, 14 players have better odds to lead the league in passing yards. The three favorites at the top of the odds board all make sense. Jared Goff has finished second in passing yards for three straight seasons, Joe Burrow led the NFL with nearly 5,000 passing yards in 2024, and Dak Prescott has topped 4,000 yards in his past four healthy seasons.

But the list of players ahead of Darnold also includes Patrick Mahomes, who tore his ACL in December; Bo Nix, who broke his ankle in January; and sophomore quarterback Tyler Shough, who averaged 216.7 passing yards per game to Darnold's 238.1 last season.

So two players who could be limited after suffering devastating injuries late last season and a 26-year-old second-year quarterback in Shough, who has upside but is largely unproven, have better odds than Darnold. That seems way off based on the numbers.

With the Vikings in 2024, Darnold finished fifth with over 4,300 passing yards on the eighth-most attempts. Darnold again threw for over 4,000 yards last season and finished fifth in that category despite ranking 15th in passing attempts.

Two different coaches and teams but similar results for Darnold, which gives me confidence that another new offensive coordinator won't be too much of an adjustment for him.

It also helps that the Seahawks have amazing receiving weapons to catch Darnold's passes. Jaxon Smith-Njigba led the league with over 1,700 receiving yards last season, the eighth most in a single season in NFL history.

Cooper Kupp is back as their No. 2 receiver and proved in the postseason that he can still be an impact player as he gets deeper into his 30s.

They also returned Rashid Shaheed after landing him via trade from the Saints midseason. Shaheed could be the X factor for their offense because of his speed and Darnold's ability to throw accurate deep balls.

Coming off a Super Bowl win, I expect Darnold to have supreme confidence and pick up where he left off last season. At 28/1 odds, I'll jump on him to be the top passer in the league as a value play before the season.

SEND HELP!

Title-chasing Libs must act before deadline to aid Stewart and Co.

LOS ANGELES — Breanna Stewart is too good for the Liberty to stand still at the trade deadline.

She remains one of the two best players in the WNBA and could even be a dark horse candidate for her first Defensive Player of the Year nod if New York's overall team defense improves.

Madeline Kenney

Too often, she's been asked to shoulder the burden of carrying the injury-plagued New York team up to this point.

Trusty sidekick Sabrina Ionescu has recently rediscovered her flow. Jonquel Jones had an All-Star-worthy first half.

But the Liberty aren't the feared team they hoped to become. They're 16-12 and 6 1/2 games out of first place.

Stewart scored 29 points with seven assists Tuesday, and Ionescu contributed 27 points, seven rebounds and six assists to help New York hold off the Sparks 113-109 in the team's first game after the All-Star break.

It was a fine win — the team's third straight, in fact.

But that doesn't mean general manager Jonathan Kolb should be sleeping soundly at night.

Kolb needs to work the phones until Sunday's trade deadline because if the past month highlighted anything, it's the holes — particularly at wing and in the frontcourt — within a roster that once seemed built with titanium armor.

This isn't about panic. It's not an overreaction to a rough July, during which the Liberty have been mostly without Leonie Fiebich and Satou Sabally.

Kolb needs to take an honest look at the roster and answer the question: Do the Liberty have enough to win a championship?

As long as Stewart plays at her current level, the Liberty need to go all in on the present. And right now, New York seems to be a player or two away from fortifying its championship aspirations.

Injuries have impacted the team's outlook.

The void left by Fiebich's absence is particularly alarming.

The Liberty's defense ranks 14th out of 15 teams this month. They're conceding a nearly league-high 95.8 points per game in July too.

Complicating all of this, of course, is the uncertain status of Sabally, who was New York's biggest offseason acquisition.

Sabally has been in concussion protocol for five weeks. The team hasn't offered any substantial update on her. She hasn't practiced or joined the Liberty on any of their recent road trips.

Coach Chris DeMarco previously said she had started the reconditioning process but offered no details of what that entailed.

Concussions are tricky, and this is Sabally's second one in less than a year. The last head injury sidelined her for most of the offseason. The recovery process often isn't linear. There are good days and bad days.

Thursday
LIBERTY AT ACES
10 p.m.
Prime Video

The unfortunate reality is that the Liberty can't count on a best-case scenario.

Sabally's return isn't inevitable. If she clears protocol, the Liberty can't assume she'll immediately resemble the player they need her to be.

The Liberty have trade assets. They own their future draft picks. Raquel Carrera is a high-upside player, but is she realistically ready to help the Liberty come playoff time?

Betnijah Laney-Hamilton appears to be the likeliest trade candidate as she's racked up four consecutive healthy scratches. She'll be an unrestricted free agent next offseason.

Rebecca Allen, Rebekah Gardner and Marine Johannès all have a price. Even moving Sabally shouldn't be out of the realm of possibility as long as the return is worthwhile.

This is DeMarco's first season at the helm. Still, anything short of a title is a disappointment. That's the standard the Liberty set for themselves.

The Liberty's window is open now and too often these openings shut with regret. They can't afford to let that happen with Stewart still elite.

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MOVE IT OR LOSE IT: With Breanna Stewart playing MVP-caliber ball, Liberty GM Jonathan Kolb needs to work the phones ahead of Sunday's trade deadline to maximize their championship chances while the window is open.
Getty Images

Confident Fauthoux giving backcourt needed boost

By MADELINE KENNEY

LIBERTY NOTES

LOS ANGELES — Sparks guard Erica Wheeler appeared to say something to Liberty developmental player Marine Fauthoux as she got set at the free-throw line late in Tuesday's fourth quarter.

Fauthoux flashed a smile and sank both free throws to give the Liberty a seven-point lead with 32.7 seconds left.

Let that be a lesson for future opponents.

"More you talk to me, the more I'm confident," Fauthoux told The Post following the Liberty's 113-109 win. "So I was so happy she talked to me because I was sure I will make it."

Indeed she did.

Tuesday was yet another solid outing for Fauthoux, who's reached double-figure scoring in two of the past three games.

Fauthoux scored 10 of her career-high 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Fauthoux's arrival comes as her fellow French guard Pauline Astier has seemed to hit the rookie wall.

Astier, who had been a bright spot in the first half of the season, hasn't scored 10 points since July 12. She previously said she was looking forward to the All-Star break to get a much-needed breather as this is her first time playing year-round.

With Astier in a bit of a funk, Fauthoux has quietly become an important part of the backcourt rotation.

However, she's played in seven of her allotted 12 games as a developmental player. If the Liberty want to keep her for the long haul and have her available in the playoffs, they'd have to convert her to a standard contract and part with at least one player to make room.

Rebekah Gardner has been impressed with Fauthoux, who was rehabbing from a knee injury to start the season.

"She's been ready for her opportunities and showing out," Gardner said. "Have you seen her play overseas? This is how she plays. So it's exciting to see her come into the WNBA and step right into it even as a developmental player where you're maybe not always getting the same reps and rhythm as everybody else. I feel like it's pretty awesome that she just came in and done that."

➤ Gardner led the Liberty's bench in outscoring the Sparks' reserves 41-19. It's the most points New York's bench scored in an outing since the second game of the season.

The Liberty's depth has been tested this season because of injuries. A night like Tuesday can mean a lot for the team's overall confidence, Gardner said.

"These types of games are what will help us later on down the line ... where the bench is getting that experience," she said. "We always talk about the bench [and] the better we do, the easier it is for the starters too."

LIV closing on nine-figure lifeline to preserve tour

By MARK CANNIZZARO

LIV Golf is not dead yet.

With reports of LIV Golf on life support and seemingly taking its final few breaths, The Post has learned its demise is not as imminent as it was believed to be.

Sources have told The Post that LIV, which had its Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund (PIF) money pulled this year, is on the cusp of landing new investors to keep the tour alive into 2027 and beyond.

Since the PIF announced in April it would no longer fund LIV beyond the 2026 season, tour CEO Scott O'Neil has feverishly been seeking outside financial backing to keep it in existence.

O'Neil is believed to have been seeking between $250 million and $300 million to stay afloat. And, according to sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity, he's found it.

According to sources, LIV Golf has received "multiple written commitments from blue-chip investment firms that would serve as anchor investors to support the league" going forward.

The prospective "anchor" investors "have submitted qualified term sheets" that would "support the formation of a financing syndicate with sufficient backing to capitalize" what LIV Golf is calling "LIV 2.0."

LIV has also attracted interest from additional investors looking to participate alongside those anchor investors, according to the sources.

When reached Wednesday, neither O'Neil nor any representatives from LIV would comment.

But there are believed to be some high-level meetings scheduled to take place next week at the LIV event at Trump Bedminster in New Jersey, meetings that will include O'Neil and LIV players.

The sources said the expectation is that a deal will be finalized "sometime in September."

While LIV has seemingly found its financial footing, it's unclear how the tour will look in '27 as it moves forward. There has been talk of a heavier emphasis on team golf, but that remains to be seen.

Under the proposed structure outlined in the term sheet, LIV players will own a majority stake in the league, which is planning to continue conducting events on five continents.

The players, according to the sources, are continuing to engage in the process, including meeting with investors. Bryson DeChambeau, among other prominent LIV players, has been very public about his involvement in helping to procure investors.

There are three events still on the 2026 LIV Golf schedule — LIV Golf New York next week in New Jersey, LIV Golf Indianapolis on Aug. 20-23, and LIV Golf Michigan, which is the season team finale, Aug. 27-30.

While the New Jersey and Indianapolis events are set to take place, the finale in Michigan, according to multiple reports, will not. No build-out for the event has even begun at the Michigan course.

LIV GOLF
UNITED KINGDOM
PRESENTED BY JCB
LIV GOLF
50
46
PA

NEW LIFE: Bryson DeChambeau and other LIV golfers have been helping to procure investors to save the rebel league. Getty Images

LIV Golf has declined comment on the status of the Michigan event, indicating that no announcement would be made until next week at the earliest.

LIV is coming off a successful week in the UK with its event at the JCB Golf and Country Club drawing some 50,000 fans across four days while Aussie Lucas Herbert won just days after making a strong run at the British Open.

After five years of seemingly unlimited funding from PIF, which has spent a reported $5 billion, LIV has been counting on outside private investments to stay alive.

Those have been sought by O'Neil, who's spent the better part of the past three months holding talks with private equity firms and wealthy investors in an effort to put together a package that could rescue the fledgling tour.

Now, it seems O'Neil and LIV have finally found a lifeline.

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Getty Imagesx (2)

MONEY MATTERS: Other soccer leagues and scores of fans are not happy about a FIFA financial plan proposed by association president Gianni Infantino (below) that includes private investors.

CUP OF GOLD

FIFA's plan for private financing draws ire of many

By ETHAN SEARS

The soccer world was rocked this week by a bombshell report from The Times of London, later confirmed by FIFA, that the sport's global governing body is attempting to privatize the World Cup.

The Post works through what the proposal means, the reaction to it and whether it might happen.

What is being proposed?

FIFA president Gianni Infantino wants to allow private investors to buy shares in the World Cup. That would in turn lead to a company, FIFA Forward Enterprises, being formed to run FIFA's commercial operations, though FIFA itself — which has nonprofit status in Switzerland — would continue both as the governing body of soccer and a majority shareholder in FFE.

Thrive Capital, which is run by Joshua Kushner — whose brother, Jared, is the president's special peace envoy and son-in-law — is reportedly expected to lead the investor group. Apollo Global Management, whose CEO Marc Rowan is both on Trump's Board of Peace and a major campaign contributor, has also been linked as a potential investor by The Times of London. J.P. Morgan is acting as FIFA's financial adviser.

In a letter sent to member associations, Infantino said a decision must be made by Sept. 19. The letter said that majority support is needed for adoption, though the organization's own rules say 75 percent support is needed to change FIFA bylaws.

Infantino also said that, with the private capital infusion, members would receive a total of $10 billion in funding, which would equate to about $40 million per association. Without it, that total would be $2.7 billion.

What would it mean if the proposal were adopted?

The main concern is that infusing private capital into FIFA would create an incentive structure that leads to outcomes such as needless expansion of the World Cup, playing the competition every two years as opposed to every four, or hosting it only in countries with the best commercial benefits — i.e., the U.S. and Middle Eastern nations with significant capital such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE.

All of that might also apply to the Club World Cup, which FIFA has already talked about expanding after the 32-team competition was launched in the U.S. last summer.

Reporting from The Times of London also indicates that Infantino, who will be term-limited as FIFA's president in 2031 if reelected later this year — largely a formality, as he's running unopposed — would become the commissioner of FFE on a Roger Goodell-like salary after 2031.

Whether FIFA could remain a nonprofit, or what the reaction would be from the European Union, are unclear as of now.

What is the reaction?

In a word, scathing.

UEFA, the body of European football associations, will reportedly hold a crisis meeting Thursday in which the idea of threatening a World Cup boycott will be discussed. AFC and CONCACAF, the equivalent bodies for Asia and North America, have both released statements expressing anger that they weren't consulted over the idea, though neither went as far as disavowing it altogether.

A series of organizations representing clubs, players and supporters have also condemned the idea, as has British Prime Minister Andy Burnham.

The financial incentives laid out in Infantino's letter have been described as a form of bribery, with the demand to make a decision by mid-September seen as a pressure tactic. The links to President Trump's orbit are also viewed with offense, particularly by the Europeans whose opposition has been loudest.

CAF, which represents Africa's federations, held off criticism, saying it will hold an executive committee next week to evaluate the idea.

CONMEBOL and OFC, the confederations representing South America and Oceania, have yet to say anything publicly.

Why has the reaction been so negative?

To truly unpack that would require a sociology class on soccer's role as a symbol of the working class, particularly in Britain but throughout Europe as a whole.

Since we don't have the space for that here, we'll make it more simple: because it's seen as an open cash-grab on the part of an organization, FIFA, and an individual, Infantino, with a reputation for such.

Will the proposal happen, and if so, why?

That likely depends on how loud the backlash and how serious the threat of a boycott is. Fan backlash killed the European Super League — an attempt by large clubs to break away from domestic leagues and form their own competition in 2021 — and could play a similar role here.

More pressing, if major European nations such as England, Germany, France and Spain — which will co-host the 2030 World Cup — make genuine boycott threats and are ready to follow through, it's hard to believe FIFA would risk a World Cup without their participation. European countries have used the same tactic to ensure that Russia remains kicked out of not only the World Cup but other international competitions such as the Olympics and IIHF championships, over its invasion of Ukraine.

As for whether the votes are there to pass it, it is extremely hard to imagine they are not. FIFA operates much like the United Nations insofar as giving all of its members equal voting power. So the massive cash infusion represented by this proposal is likely enough on its own to get a majority of its 211 countries — think Africa, the Caribbean, Asia — on board, should a vote take place.

If everyone hates Gianni Infantino so much, why is he still in charge?

Understanding that dynamic is crucial to understanding both FIFA and Infantino's ability to retain his job despite a brutally poor public image. Infantino has made sure to take care of smaller, poorer countries — FIFA has said the distribution fund for its member associations has grown eightfold since he was elected in 2016 — allowing him to retain majority support. Compared to Sepp Blatter, his predecessor who was brought down by corruption scandals, Infantino has also been largely open about what he's doing. Though many have described him as corrupt, too, that has given it a patina of legitimacy which Blatter's FIFA lacked.

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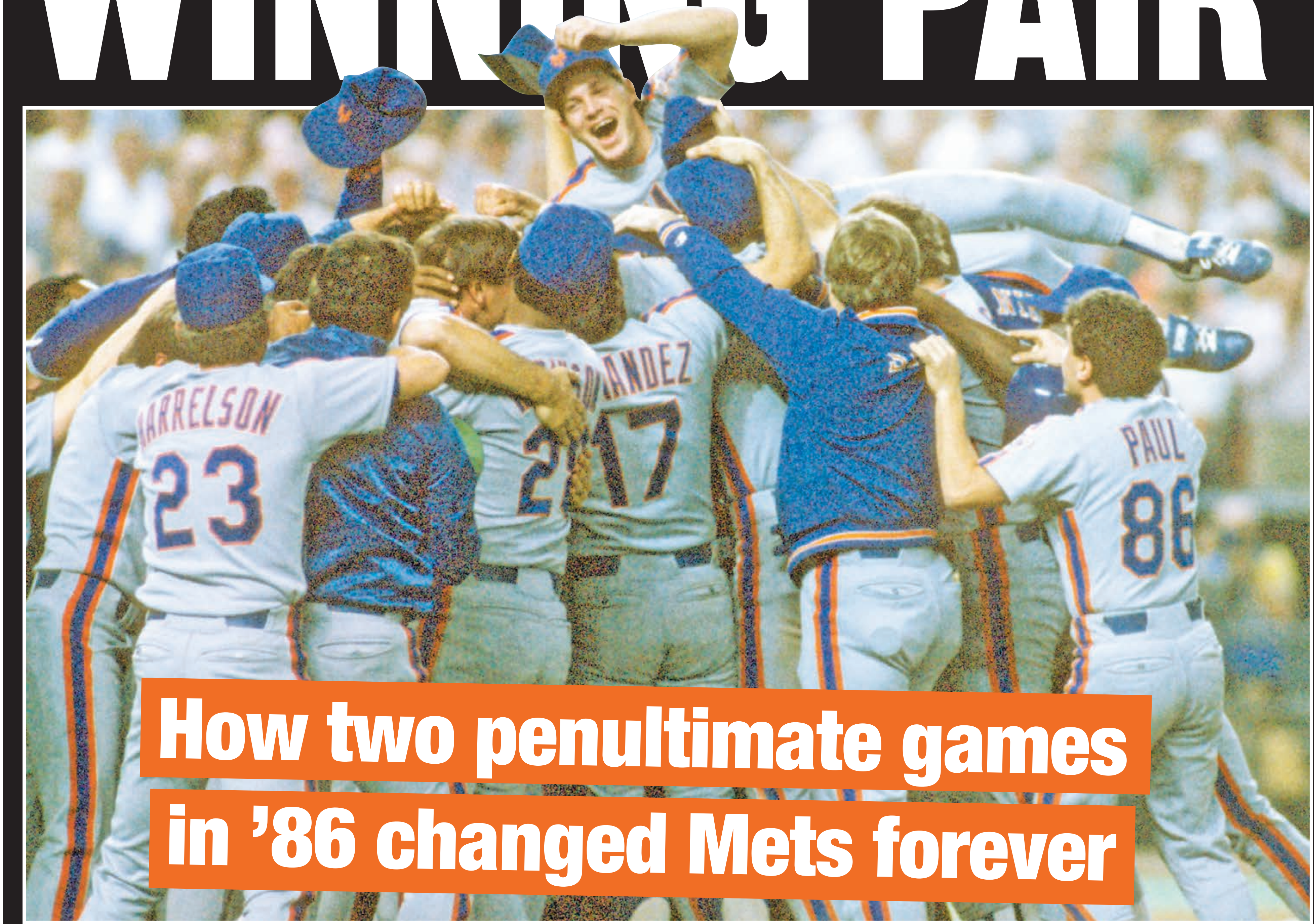

How two penultimate games in ’86 changed Mets forever

Mike Vaccaro

‘GAME 6” will never have the same implications that its first cousin, “Game 7,” does. Game 7 means wonder. Game 7 means drama, across every inning, every minute. Game 7 means potential dire consequences for both participants. Game 7 is Aaron Boone and Bill Mazeroski, Stefan Matteau and Clyde Frazier. Game 7 is do or die, survive or perish.’

Game 6 has none of those things. It is, by definition, nonclimactic.

And, in almost every circumstance, it is.

Just not in the context of the 1986 New York Mets.

“When you think of our team, the first thing you think about is Game 6,” Keith Hernandez told me not long ago. “And the second thing you think of is: ‘Whoa, wait, which Game 6 are you talking about?’ ”

The Mets won 108 baseball games during the ’86 season; only nine other teams have ever won more going back to 1869. They won the NL East by 21½ games. They took over first place when they swept four from the Cardinals in late April and stayed there the final 167 days of the season. Until late August they never lost more than three games in a row.

“Not only will we win this year,” manager Davey Johnson had said in the spring in St. Petersburg, “but we’re going to dominate.”

The Mets backed up that boast, often with their fists cocked and ready, always with a supreme belief in themselves. But unlike the other New York baseball juggernaut of recent vintage — the 114-win Yankees of 1998 — the call signal of those ’86 Mets isn’t necessarily their dominance and supreme self-confidence, although they had that in great supply. It was their nerve, and their verve, and their performance under the most glaring spotlight imaginable.

They were that close to being labeled the worst underachievers in baseball history (if you choose to be kind about it) or the biggest chokers ever (if you don’t care about manners). And instead, their reputation is exactly the opposite: On the verge of catastrophe, they became a model of baseball courage and resilience. All because of two games.

All because of two Game 6s, played 10 days apart, played 1,653 miles apart. Both of those games were eerily similar, four-chapter studies in grace under baseball fire while trying to fend off equally accomplished opponents. All with the entirety of a season resting on the outcome — one theoretically, one literally.

PROLOGUE: The Stakes

Game 6 of the NLCS wasn’t technically an elimination game for the Mets. But there wasn’t a soul anywhere in the Astrodome that Oct. 15, 1986, who believed the Mets would win Game 7 if they lost Game 6, because Game 7 meant Mike Scott, who wasn’t just the best pitcher on the planet in October 1986, he was embedded deep inside the heads of Mets hitters, convinced Scott’s split-

OF 6'S

Getty Images (2); AP

DON'T WAIT TILL THE END: The 1986 Mets championship run included two thrilling Game 6 wins — one a 16-inning duel at Houston (left) to avoid a Game 7 clash with Cy Young winner Mike Scott, and 10 days later Game 6 of the World Series, when an error by Bill Buckner (inset above) allowed Ray Knight to score the winning run in the 10th and force a deciding game.

finger fastball had more than just a wicked spin rate on its side.

"Nobody said as much," Ron Darling said in 2010, "but we all sort of figured we might be in trouble if we didn't take care of business in Game 6."

Game 6 of the World Series on Oct. 25 was less ambiguous, at least as far as the Mets were concerned. They'd blown Games 1 and 2 at Shea, and though they did take two out of three at Fenway Park, the Sox returned to Queens one game shy of ending their 68-year title drought. They had a game to play with, if necessary. The Mets did not.

PART I: Big Trouble Afoot

Bob Ojeda had been brilliant all year, but he quickly found early trouble in Houston in Game 6 of the NLCS. Phil Garner, Glenn Davis and Jose Cruz all drove in runs, and the Astros were primed for more when Hal Lanier inexplicably called for a suicide squeeze up 3-0 and Ojeda near collapse in the first inning. Kevin Bass was hung out to dry when Alan Ashby missed the bunt, and the Mets escaped more calamity.

Ojeda settled down after that. But Bob Knepper was masterful, and across eight innings he allowed just two hits and struck out six. The Mets seemed ready to meekly surrender Game 6 and fall under Scott's yoke for Game 7.

Ten days later Ojeda — this time working on three days' rest — struggled early again. Dewey Evans and Marty Barrett drove in a run apiece in the first two innings, and Roger Clemens — the AL's version of Scott that year — was mowing down the Mets effortlessly, striking out six across four hitless innings. The Sox led 2-0. Shea felt a few ticks away from despair.

PART 2: The Answers

Still down 3-0 to the Astros, Johnson sent Len Dykstra up to pinch hit for Rick Aguilera leading off the ninth, even though Davey hardly ever let Dykstra hit against lefties — much to Dykstra's chagrin. Dykstra promptly hit a fly ball that seemed routine off the bat but kept carrying and carrying until it flew over Billy Hatcher's head in center for a triple. Mookie Wilson followed with a soft liner that avoided Bill Doran's glove by maybe a millimeter and a half for an RBI single, and an out later Keith Hernandez delivered a double into the gap.

It was 3-2 now, and when Hernandez reached second he emitted a yell and a double fist pump that was aped by every Mets fan back home. Knepper was done. Dave Smith looked instantly shaky, walking Gary Carter and Darryl Strawberry — who'd hit a mammoth upper-deck shot just foul — to load the bases. Ray Knight did what he did all of 1986 — he lofted a fly ball to right that tied the game and sent it to extra innings.

A week and a half later, the Mets finally reached Clemens for two runs in the fifth on a Knight RBI single and a Danny Heep double-play grounder that tied the game. Then, after the Sox took a 3-2 lead in the seventh (helped by a throwing error by Knight), the Mets answered off Calvin Schiraldi in the eighth (after Clemens either begged out of the game due to a blister, or manager John McNamara pulled him, depending on whom you believe).

The Mets threatened in the ninth, but when Howard Johnson couldn't lay down a bunt with two on and nobody out, he struck out and Schiraldi survived.

PART 3: Uh-Oh

The Mets played inning after inning knowing they were one swing from disaster but broke through against Aurelio Lopez — "Señor Smoke" — in the top of the 14th when Wally Backman drove in Darryl Strawberry with one out. The Mets should have added more, but Lopez retired Johnson and Mookie Wilson stranding runners at second and third.

That proved enormous in the bottom of the 14th when Hatcher got around on a Jesse Orosco fastball (remember that) and smoked it off the left field fair pole: 4-4, to the 15th.

At Shea 10 days later, Dave Henderson delivered an even graver kick to the solar plexus, silencing the ballpark when he drilled the second pitch he saw from Aguilera leading off the 10th over the left field wall. Three batters later, Marty Barrett drove in Wade Boggs, and the Sox had an insurance run. The Mets stood three outs from extinction, down 5-3.

PART 4: HOLY $@&#!!!!

"It felt like the Astrodome was on its feet for four solid hours," was how Knight described the surreal atmosphere. And as the game inched into its fifth hour, the Mets, at last, seized control in the 16th inning. Or so it seemed. Strawberry led off with a double and Knight drove him in. Two wild pitches later, Knight scored to make it 6-4. Dykstra added an RBI single and it was 7-4.

Orosco, with two innings already under his belt (after Roger McDowell had thrown *five*) looked exhausted. He *was* exhausted. The Astros pounced: A walk and four singles, and it was 7-6, two outs, and men on first and second. Bass was up. Hernandez called time, held a meeting at the mound and issued what amounts to the Gettysburg Address in the annals of Mets history.

"Jesse," Hernandez said, "if you throw one more fastball, we're fighting."

On a full count, Orosco whiffed Bass. On a slider. And a nasty one.

The Mets had survived ... only to find themselves on the worst ledge possible 10 days later. Backman and Hernandez flied out to start the bottom of the 10th. The Shea scoreboard, in that moment, either jumped the gun or initiated the greatest reverse jinx in baseball history, flashing:

"CONGRATULATIONS BOSTON RED SOX, 1986 WORLD CHAMPIONS."

Hernandez, disgusted, retreated to the manager's office to pop open a beer and ponder his team's sins (a move for which he has long admitted regret). On TV he watched Carter single. He watched Kevin Mitchell single. He watched Knight single, and started to make a move back upstairs to the dugout before realizing something important.

"This chair has more hits in it." He stayed.

He saw, as everyone did, 13 different pitches that could have ended the game, the season, and the Mets' bid for glory. On the 13th, Bob "Steamer" Stanley threw a ball at Wilson's feet, and it skipped away, and Mitchell scored the tying run.

Two pitches later, Wilson hit a drizzling ground ball that Boston first baseman Bill Buckner limped to his left to field. He got there. But he never got his glove down.

"The Mets win!" Bob Murphy shouted upstairs, in the WHN-AM radio booth. "They win!"

EPILOGUE

The Mets famously wrecked the team plane on the flight home from Houston — and even more famously, when Frank Cashen presented a $10,000 bill for damages to Johnson, Johnson ripped it up in front of his players to their eternal delight. Manhattan essentially froze for all seven extra innings.

At Madison Square Garden, Billy Joel — playing his first show there in over two years — held off taking the stage until Orosco struck out Bass, and instead of leading off with "You May Be Right" or "Big Shot," he let the audience work its way through "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" instead.

The Mets still had work ahead of them 10 days later, but from the moment Knight crossed the plate with the winning run, that felt to all concerned like a formality. The Mets spotted the Sox a three-run lead in Game 7, but even with that, in the mind's eye, Game 7 was an afterthought, almost a footnote, for the 1986 Mets.

After all, they'd already survived Game 6. Two of them.

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All options in play for rehabbing Holmes

By MIKE PUMA

METS NOTES

Clay Holmes' next start could be in the minor leagues, for the Mets or for another major league team.

All options remain in play for the right-hander as he nears his return from the injured list, with the trade deadline arriving Monday.

CLAY HOLMES

Holmes, in his second minor league rehab appearance in his comeback from a broken fibula, fired four scoreless innings for Single-A St. Lucie on Tuesday. He will throw a bullpen session later in the week before a next step is determined, according to interim manager Andy Green.

"Obviously anybody can count out and see where we are five days [from Tuesday] and it's Sunday before the deadline," Green said before the Mets beat the Braves 3-2 in Game 1 of a doubleheader; they fell to Atlanta 1-0 in the nightcap. "There is a decision to be made around that."

Holmes and Freddy Peralta are the Mets' primary starting pitchers that figure to be dealt. Holmes, who has pitched to a 2.39 ERA in nine starts this year, can opt out of his contract after this season.

➤ **Francisco Alvarez** had a .981 OPS in 15 games since July 3 as play began in the doubleheader nightcap. Alvarez delivered an RBI double in the fifth inning to break a scoreless tie in Game 1 before going 0-for-3 as the designated hitter in Game 2.

"Since I have sat in this seat over the last month, he's had really good at-bats," Green said. "I see someone who swings with confidence. He impacts the ball like very few guys in the game. It comes off hot. There's power — a huge hit in the gap for us today."

➤ **Carson Benge's** RBI double in the seventh inning gave the Mets a 3-2 lead in Game 1. It was the fourth go-ahead RBI for Benge this season in the seventh inning or later, which tied him for fourth in MLB in that category.

➤ Mets pitchers had compiled a 3.09 ERA, the third-lowest mark in MLB since the All-Star break, heading into the nightcap. The bullpen's 2.23 ERA was the lowest in the National League and third lowest in the major leagues.

Mougey 'more in sync' with Glenn in Year 2

By BRIAN COSTELLO

JETS NOTES

Jets general manager Darren Mougey spoke to the media Wednesday on the first day of training camp and hit on a few different topics.

There has been a lot of talk about how Aaron Glenn has changed in his second year on the job. Mougey is also in his second season and said having a year in the Jets building has helped him.

"There's a better comfort level going into Year 2," Mougey said. "My relationship with AG has only gotten stronger and better. We have dialogue every day. We're just much more in sync; time on task with anybody does that for you. I think we all have high expectations for ourselves — that's players, that's coaches, myself included."

How would Mougey define a successful season?

"We want to win," Mougey said. "I want to see these guys compete and get better every single day. That's starting today throughout training camp and throughout the season."

Mougey got contract extensions done this offseason with running back Breece Hall and guard Joe Tippmann. He did not sound like he is working to extend any other players.

"I think we're in a good spot right now, but I'll always keep contract stuff in-house," Mougey said.

There also is an expectation that the Jets could add a veteran backup quarterback before the season through either a trade or a signing. Mougey emphasized that he is eager to see Cade Klubnik, Bailey Zappe and Brady Cook compete to back up Geno Smith.

"I won't get into the hypotheticals," Mougey said. "I'm just excited to see Cade get his reps during training camp and watch the whole group, Bailey and Brady, and Geno, get their reps and develop and continue to improve while they're here and we'll keep an eye on the landscape ... that's no different for [any] position."

➤ Neither Mougey or Glenn had much to say about Smith's run-ins with the Florida police over the last few months.

"I'm excited about what's moving forward, glad that's behind us," Mougey said. "It is behind us and I'm excited for the continued growth through the offseason and training camp."

Glenn credited Smith with being accountable.

"I think he did a really good job of the awareness part of it," Glenn said. "First, understanding that we built a lot of momentum in OTAs and coming out of OTAs. Man, the distraction happened. I know that he hated that he was a part of that. The thing about it is it's behind him. It's behind him and we're all moving forward. He talked to me. He talked to some of his teammates. We're with him 100 percent and we're moving forward."

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QB Dart excited to connect with OBJ

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Since Jaxson Dart last spoke with the media, the Giants added a player with an all-world résumé and plenty to prove as he attempts a comeback with the team that gave him his NFL start more than a decade ago.

Odell Beckham Jr. is that player, and Dart now has a former star wide receiver to get to know on and off the field. Beckham, 33, did not play at all in 2025.

GIANTS NOTES

"I'm definitely excited about 'O,' " Dart said Wednesday after the first training camp practice at The Greenbrier. "I think the big thing is you never know how somebody's going to respond from having that time off coming back.

"I think that his ability to pour into his teammates — and you would think a lot of times when there's a big comeback that it's about the individual himself, but he's really just about the teammates, the guys around him. I've loved having him here so far. He's just a great guy. He's a great leader. He's had the ultimate experience of the highs and the lows, and I think that the more that you're able to communicate with him, get perspectives from him, with him also being, obviously, a really good player, is huge for our team."

➤ General manager **Joe Schoen** not only survived the tumult of back-to-back seasons of 3-14 and 4-13 — plus the firing of his good friend, former Giants head coach **Brian Daboll** — but he also received a significant amount of job security from team ownership. Following the NFL draft, Schoen signed a multiyear contract extension — believed to be four years — to partner with John Harbaugh moving forward.

"Very thankful to the Mara and the Tisch families for the extension," Schoen said. "Just grateful and looking forward to the season.

"Coach and I are going to work together and try to put together the best roster we can and go out and win games. And again, it doesn't matter how long you have on your contract, it's always going to be year to year. So, you just go out and do the best we can and try to put the best team on the field for 2026."

COLOR ME EXCITED: John Harbaugh said it was a "pretty cool moment" riding into camp and seeing all the red, white and blue Giants signage everywhere as he embarks on his first season with the team.

Corey Sipkin

Harbaugh 101

High-intensity new coach gets 'pretty cool' intro to running Giants on Day 1

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Brian Burns was talking about the way John Harbaugh comports himself in team meetings and came up with "intensity" as a way to describe his new head coach.

When and how does Burns see that intensity in Harbaugh?

"Every time he opens his mouth," Burns said, breaking into a smile and laugh. "That's who he is, he can't help it. He's got that intensity regardless. Enthusiasm I should say, not intensity."

Both are apt characterizations when it comes to Harbaugh.

The 63-year-old has been at this for nearly two decades, taking a team into training camp, but what transpired Wednesday was a new twist. Harbaugh, after 18 years as the Ravens head coach, is now running a different team after the Giants gave him a five-year, $100 million contract to turn losing into winning.

His new job arrived with an added wrinkle, as ongoing renovations at the Giants facility meant they had to hit the road for camp this summer. These renovations and expansions were planned well before Harbaugh got the job.

As the Giants pulled up to The Greenbrier resort Tuesday night, Harbaugh noticed all the blue, red and white signs, placards and billboards around the Sports Performance Center. That got to him as he readied himself for his first camp practice running the show for the Giants.

"I mean, it's cool seeing the colors and the logo," Harbaugh said. "Once you're out there at practice, you're just working, right? But driving in on the buses, maybe. When you drive up to the facility off the plane and you see all the signage and all that. It's Giants. That was a pretty cool moment."

Harbaugh put his team through a high-energy, 90-minute session. There are NFL Players Association guidelines for what a head coach can and cannot do this time of year, meaning the first few days are non-padded practices, and the duration of each practice can increase in small increments each day.

Day 1 is in the books.

"I was really happy with it," Harbaugh said. "I thought we were on point. There was determination. Nobody was happy-go-lucky coming in. Everybody was in good spirits. But more than that, they were focused and determined to get off to a good start. I saw that from when they reported over there at the facility, did the conditioning test and all that back at our place in East Rutherford, and then here when we got here, and then today. So, I expect that to continue."

The first team meeting of camp opened up with the song "Take Me Home, Country Roads," the John Denver anthem for West Virginia.

"A lot of the guys knew the words," Harbaugh said. "I knew the words."

There will be less singing and more running and grinding as camp gets cooking.

"He makes it very clear what he expects," Burns said. "He expects you to work. He expects you to be a pro, show up on time, prepared. He's not a man for excuses. He understands stuff happens, but he ain't trying to give too much of that."

Enagbare confident D-line set to grow

By GRACE McCARRON

There was a positive air around the Jets facility Wednesday for Day 1 of practice. The team's desire to begin writing a new, more successful chapter was evident.

One area of newness for Gang Green is on the defensive line. The team brought in veterans Joseph Ossai and Kingsley Enagbare in free agency and drafted David Bailey with the No. 2 pick in April's draft.

Enagbare spent his first four pro seasons with Green Bay, a perennial playoff team in recent years. The Packers' record over Enagbare's tenure was 37-30-1.

The Jets' record over that period? 22-46.

"I know my room, we got a few younger guys, so trying to give the boys the insight that I got over the last four years. I pretty much made the playoffs throughout my four years, so I have a decent amount of playoff experience," Enagbare said Wednesday. "I know what it takes from Week 1 to Week 17 ... how the playoff intensity changes and how to maintain your body, take care of your body, stuff like that.

"It's a long season, and it pretty much starts now. It starts in OTAs, honestly."

Bailey's potential impact is one of the most intriguing elements of this Jets team. Enagbare already has been amazed by what he's seen from the rookie.

"He's going to be phenomenal. He's going to have a long, long career," Enagbare said. "The sky's the limit for that dude. He can literally do it all. He can stop the run. He can rush the passer. Sky's the limit for him."

Overall, Enagbare exuded confidence when talking about his new room.

"I told the guys today we're only going to be as good as our weakest link, meaning if our weakest link is a bad, bad MF, our group is going to be a bad MF and people's going to fear that," Enagbare said. "Iron sharpen iron. I think we're gonna have a good group."

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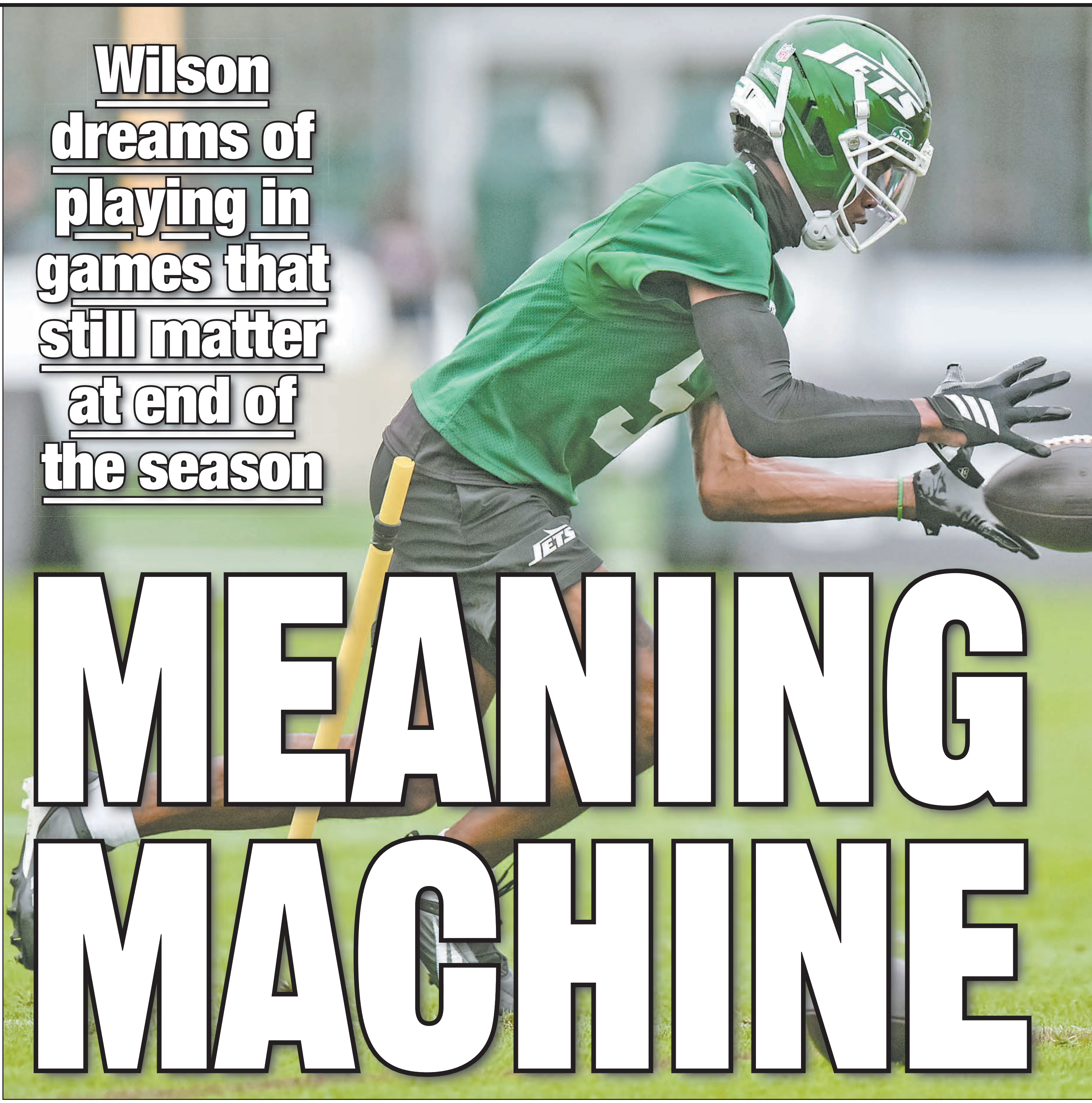

Wilson dreams of playing in games that still matter at end of the season

MEANING MACHINE

By BRIAN COSTELLO

It's only July, but if you ask Garrett Wilson about his goals for this season, his mind goes to December.

"Just playing meaningful football," the Jets wide receiver said Wednesday. "I've got to hold my end with this team. Whatever they expect out of me, I've got to do that. If they expect a little more out of me, I've got to do that and play my role. I believe we've got the pieces in place, and that will get us to playing that meaningful football in December, which I've dreamed of doing for a long time, playing on that high level when it means a lot."

That's something that has been elusive for Wilson, who is entering his fifth season with the team. The Jets contended briefly during his rookie season but lost their final six games. They have not come close to sniffing the playoffs since then.

For the 26-year-old Wilson, there has been plenty of individual success, but the team has gone 7-10, 7-10, 5-12 and 3-14 in his first four seasons.

Despite all that losing, Wilson is hopeful things are going to change in 2026.

"I have a feeling it's going to be a special year," Wilson said.

Wilson is coming off the most disappointing season of his career. He injured his knee in the sixth game of the season and was shut down after playing seven games. It was the first time Wilson missed any time with the Jets, and Wilson said it's the first extended time he's missed in his entire football career.

Watching from the sideline left Wilson hungering to return this season.

"It's been brewing since Week 8 of last season," Wilson said. "I ended up missing the rest of that season. It's really the first time I've missed significant time in my life. All of a sudden, it makes you look at things differently. Not that I ever took this game for granted, but when you miss time like that, you just can't wait to get back and have another shot at it. That's how I'm feeling right now. We've got another opportunity, a special opportunity, to turn this thing around. I'm as excited as I've ever been to do it this season."

Wilson is working with yet another quarterback. That has been a familiar storyline in Wilson's career, from his pairing with Zach Wilson early in his career to future Hall of Famer Aaron Rodgers and reuniting with his college teammate Justin Fields last year. None of the pairings worked. The Jets now hope Geno Smith can be the answer.

TRAINING DAY

COOL RUNNING

The Jets have a strong trio of running backs in **Breece Hall**, **Braelon Allen** and **Isaiah Davis**, and all three had good moments Wednesday, either running the ball or catching it.

WILTING WILL'

WR **Isaiah Williams** had a bad drop in the middle of the field. Williams proved himself to be a good returner last year, but he needs to show something to earn more time on offense.

CAUGHT MY EYE

Aaron Glenn got fired up at one moment and screamed at edge rusher **Braiden McGregor**. It was unclear what McGregor did, but Glenn made it known that he was unhappy.

INJURY REPORT

Rookie CB **D'Angelo Ponds** has a strained calf, but Glenn said he is not worried about it. DT **Mazi Smith** left practice with a hamstring injury. Glenn revealed NT **T'Vondre Sweat** has a hamstring issue that landed him on the non-football injury list.

— Brian Costello

AT LONG LAST: Garrett Wilson is entering his fifth season in the NFL and his fifth season with the Jets, which means he has never experienced a winning season. He's hoping all that changes this year. Imagn Images

Frank Reich will become Wilson's fifth different play-caller as well. Wilson spoke glowingly of Reich's system in the spring and how much freedom it gives him to adjust. Jets coach Aaron Glenn believes Reich's system is a perfect fit for Wilson.

"Garrett's feeling good and he looks good," Glenn said. "Me and Garrett had a number of conversations in the offseason. I will say this, he's champing at the bit, especially with the type of offense that we have and especially the way that Frank is going to utilize all those guys. I know you guys heard Frank talk about this and I know you heard the players talk about this about how the players are able to use their instincts but be disciplined while they're using it. I think that fits exactly what Garrett can do well. I'm looking forward to him doing that."

Wilson had more than 1,000 yards receiving in his first three seasons before falling to 395 last year in the injury-shortened year. Wilson should return to the 1,000-yard mark if the Jets offense clicks. But Wilson wants those yards to come in a playoff push, not in more meaningless games.

"It feels different this year," Wilson said. "I don't want to talk about it too much. It just does."

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New vets must teach old Gang about winning

KING' AMONG MEN: Kingsley Enagbare has been to the postseason three times in his career, which is three times more than many of his Jets teammates — an experience he hopes to share now that he has joined Gang Green. Bill Kostroun

Mark Cannizzaro

NEW blood.
New energy.
New narrative.

Will these translate into new results for the 2026 Jets (see: winning)?

This is something general manager Darren Mougey and head coach Aaron Glenn, both in their second season in those posts with the Jets, are counting on after an offseason of rampant change — both on the roster and coaching staff.

Among the core returning players are receiver Garrett Wilson, running backs Breece Hall and Braelon Allen, guard Joe Tippmann, tight end Jeremy Ruckert, defensive end Will McDonald IV and tackles Olu Fashanu and Armand Membou.

And all they know from their varying years of experience wearing the green and white is losing. None has ever been part of a winning season in the NFL or a single playoff game.

This is where the offseason influx of new players who've experienced winning must become a critical turning point for the Jets.

This is where the Jets hope the acquisitions of veteran linebacker Demario Davis (three playoff seasons), safety Minkah Fitzpatrick (four), defensive lineman David Onyemata (four) and Kingsley Enagbare (three), cornerback Nahshon Wright (two), receiver Tim Patrick (two) and quarterback Geno Smith (one) truly do change the direction of the franchise that's been mired in losing for far too long (10 consecutive losing seasons).

Every one of those players has experienced something the likes of Wilson, Hall, Allen, Tippmann, Ruckert, McDonald, Fashanu and Membou have not: playing in the postseason.

Wilson, for one, feels a different energy already with this team because of the new players who were brought in.

"It's guys like 'Double D' [Demario Davis] in the building and Geno on the offensive side and Tim Patrick," Wilson said Wednesday. "These guys have no past association with the blunders we've had, and because of that, they're bringing a winning mindset, a winning energy.

"As younger players on the team, we're trying to latch onto that and get a better idea of what it takes to win at that level because they've done it before."

No baggage is a big deal here. I've seen this movie before with the Jets when long stretches of losing seasons seeped into the psyches of the players involved in them and it ruined them.

I watched quality players like Mo Lewis, James Hasty, Rob Moore, Brad Baxter, Marvin Washington, Erik McMillan, Brian Washington and many others on Jets teams in the '90s get weighed down by the baggage and become mentally beaten down by the constant losing.

The hope is that with the addition of players who've experienced winning, it helps push the returning core players like Wilson, Hall, Tippmann, Fashanu and the others over the line so they get a taste of winning.

"I want Jets fans to be proud of the team, proud to wear Jets hats, Jets T-shirts, the green and white," Fitzpatrick said Wednesday. "I grew up in Jersey [Old Bridge], so I know how a lot of Jets fans feel. They love the team, but we haven't had a lot of success the last few years."

When Enagbare was asked Wednesday what motivated him to join the Jets this offseason, he said, "Just the opportunity to change the narrative, create a winning culture and have the league fear us."

Enagbare referred to the younger guys in the defensive line room, and his goal is "trying to give them the insight I've gotten over the last four years."

"I've made the playoffs in [three] of my four years, so I've got a decent amount of playoff experience," he said. "I know what it takes from Week 1 through Week 17, how the intensity changes going into the playoffs and how to take care of your body through a long season.

"It's a long season, and it pretty much starts now."

Surely, acquiring players from more successful organizations was a part of Mougey's plan when he upgraded the roster in the offseason.

"I believe it can help," the GM said Wednesday. "I'm excited to watch it, excited to watch some of the young guys who just got here take shape and mold throughout training camp, and watch some of our veteran players, both the ones who've been here and the new veterans we brought in, evolve in how they lead these young guys."

Wilson sounded so excited Wednesday it seemed like he was jumping out of his skin to get the games started.

"I believe we've got the pieces in place to get us playing meaningful football in December — something I've dreamed of doing for a long time," he said. "It does feel different this year. Not that I didn't feel something in other years, but it's more this group. Certain conversations we've had in the team room have set the table right.

"Now it's our job as players to go out and get better every day at this point in the season, so that when the real season comes, we're ready to play on Sunday."

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A LEEK OF NATURE

Dangerous wideout returns to give fans hope, but Nabers still needs some time to get back to 100%

TRAINING DAY

DEEP IMPACT

WR **Braxton Berrios** hauled in a deep pass from **Jameis Winston**, getting behind the defense for a big-play touchdown. Berrios, a 5-foot-9 slot receiver, is known more for his pass-catching ability over the middle.

C'MON JEVÓN

The tipped pass floated directly into the hands of safety **Jevón Holland** for what should have been an easy interception in a 7-on-7 period. Holland, though, dropped the ball. No turnover for you.

CAUGHT MY EYE

The Allegheny Mountains encircling the two pristine grass fields at the Greenbrier Sports Performance Center make for a picturesque setting. It looks nothing like the New Jersey parking lot experience where the Giants normally hold camp.

INJURY REPORT

TE **Thomas Fidone II** and DL **Sam Roberts** came off the physically unable to perform list in time for the start of camp. ... WR **Darius Slayton**, who missed spring work recovering from a sports hernia, looked fine as he beat CB **Paulson Adebo** for a big gain.

— Paul Schwartz

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — On Day 1, Malik Nabers was out there.

Give the Giants their first victory of training camp, 2026.

The star wide receiver was out there, and everyone noticed.

"I mean it's Leek," quarterback Jaxson Dart said Wednesday. "That's it. Every time he's on the field everybody knows where he's at."

Where Nabers was at provided a jolt of positivity for an offense, a team and fan base breathlessly waiting for him to return to the form he put on display as a rookie in 2024, a showing that justified his lofty standing as the No. 6 overall pick in the NFL draft that year. He played in only four games last season before going down and out with a torn right anterior cruciate ligament, a significant injury made more serious with the addition of a partially torn right lateral meniscus.

It is too soon to declare Nabers fully back because he is not. Not yet, anyway. He was able to avoid the physically unable to perform list heading into training camp and that was encouraging. On the first day of practice at The Greenbrier, Nabers was out there with his teammates during the individual receiver drills and also worked with the offense during "on air" periods, when no players on defense were on the field. He took his steps, made his cuts, planted his foot in the ground to change directions and made his catches. Then he went inside while the rest of the team proceeded with the more strenuous parts of practice.

"It was great," head coach John Harbaugh said. "You saw him. He's got a process going. I thought he looked good."

For now, looking good will suffice.

General manager Joe Schoen said Nabers reported earlier than the majority of the team and that he was able to run and cut in the days leading up to camp. There will be no rushing the process. If Nabers feels good, physical goals will be added each day. If he experiences a slight setback, the workload will ease off.

"The medical staff has a really good plan for him," Schoen said. "And we're going to, as I always say, listen to the patients. So, we're going to see how he reacts. As long as everything goes as planned ... hopefully he'll be ready and we'll see how it plays out. But no predictions right now, just because we have a long way to go, still a lot of camp."

The deadline for Nabers to be all systems go is Sept. 13, the regular-season opener against the Cowboys. It is not August yet. Time appears to be on the Giants' side with this one.

There are options for the Giants to consider at the position, but there is only one Malik Nabers. They signed Darnell Mooney and Calvin Austin III early in free agency and three more veterans — Odell Beckham Jr., JuJu Smith-Schuster and Braxton Berrios — later. They traded up in the draft to get Malachi Fields. Darius Slayton returns for year No. 8. Reliable Isaiah Hodgins is back. There will be plenty of competition for the available six spots on the roster.

There is no competition for who the leader of the pack needs to be, as far as star power. It needs to be Nabers.

"He definitely has a presence about him," Dart said. "There's an aura that he has on the field that is exhilarating, it makes me happy, it makes everybody happy just to see him out there. Just for him, he's had a lot of positives so we're just going to continue to get him in slowly. He's doing a great job with how he's attacking his recovery. I got all the confidence in the world in him.

"He brings a completely different element to an offense."

Nabers caught 109 passes for 1,204 yards as a rookie but was lost in Week 4 last season, going down and out in Dart's first NFL start. Dart was robbed of his most dynamic weapon for his next 11 starts.

"I had a quarter and one week, really, of reps with him last year," Dart said. "So any time we're able to just have communication with each other, have dialogue, watch tape, which we've done a lot. Trying to get those reps before he's 100 percent, I think that will help mold our relationship into what we want it to be. He's obsessed with this game and he's attacking it the right way."

Outside linebacker Brian Burns called Nabers "dynamic" and added he will caution the just-turned 23-year-old to make sure he is not rushing back into the action. Nabers needed a second procedure in the spring, to clean up some scar tissue, and that set him back a bit.

"I mean, maybe he'll get way ahead, maybe he won't, whatever," Harbaugh said. "You can't really put a timetable on it exactly, I don't think. I think you just see where it goes because we want him to be at his best. So, when he's ready to be at his best, he'll be at his best."

More Giants / Page 51

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TURNING HEADS: Malik Nabers runs a route in training camp Wednesday, as he made his return to the field after tearing his ACL and lateral meniscus in Week 4 of last season. Corey Sipkin (2)

TAKE 2: After taking just 23 in-game snaps with Malik Nabers, Jaxson Dart got a long-awaited opportunity to start rebuilding his on-field relationship with his No. 1 wideout. Corey Sipkin

Dart finally gets his elite receiver back

Steve Serby

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — The first practice of the John Harbaugh Era had ended, and there was a bare-chested Jaxson Dart tossing footballs to Malik Nabers.

The vision of the young Giants franchise quarterback having the chance to target the electric Go-To Guy he had on the field with him as a rookie for a mere 23 snaps makes Dart's heart, and Harbaugh's heart, and the hearts of all Giants fans, sing with joy, and allows all of them to dream, and dream big.

Nabers looked just fine running and cutting and catching in individual drills on a Giants field of dreams flanked by the scenic Allegheny Mountains.

Call it one small step for Malik ... with hope for one Giant leap for Giantskind ... to opening night against the Cowboys.

That is no longer The Impossible Dream.

Nabers has worked religiously to fashion this comeback from his torn ACL and lateral meniscus tear suffered Week 4 last season in Dart's first 2025 start.

A healthy Nabers changes everything for Dart, the way that the young Odell Beckham Jr. changed plenty for Eli Manning.

A healthy Nabers single-handedly and dramatically changes the complexion of the offense, and the swagger and prospects of the New York Football Giants.

Because Dart will have more than a puncher's chance to make that second-year leap with Nabers imposing his will on secondaries.

Harbaugh and Lamar Jackson didn't have The Elite Wide Receiver who might have put them over the top.

"He definitely has a presence about him," Dart said. "There's an aura that he has on the field that is exhilarating. It makes me happy."

Nabers complementing a Bullyball ground assault? Good luck to defensive coordinators.

"It's Leek. Every time he's on the field," Dart said, "everybody knows where he's at."

Now Dart builds what the Giants hope and pray will be a lasting relationship on the field and off with Nabers.

"Trying to get those reps before he's 100 percent, and I think that that will help mold our relationship into what we want it to be," Dart said. "He's obsessed with this game, and he's attacking it the right way."

While Dart was transforming himself into a first-round pick at Ole Miss, Nabers (109-1, 204-7 TDs) was doing what he could for Daniel Jones and Drew Lock and Tommy DeVito.

"I played him twice in college," Dart said. "I saw his rookie year. There's not many flaws that show up in his game. I think that he's really good at everything."

I asked Dart if he could pinpoint one thing that makes Nabers elite.

He could have mentioned how tough he is to tackle, how he knows how to get open, how he fights for contested catches, his catch radius, his athletic arrogance and, more often than not, his hands.

"I think his mindset," Dart said. "He's just a dawg. He's an ultimate competitor in everything that he does, whether it's playing ping-pong in the locker room. He's obsessed with competition. He wants to win. He wants to be the best.

"Those are guys that you want to be around."

Those are the guys Harbaugh wants around him. The Giants won't rush Nabers. The franchise and the family of Hall of Famer Ray Flaherty allowed him as a rookie to wear the No. 1 jersey that had been retired, remember.

"We'll meet the circumstances where we find them every single day," Harbaugh said. "Maybe he'll get way ahead, maybe he won't, whatever. You can't really put a timetable on it exactly, I don't think. I think you just see where it goes because we want him to be at his best. So, when he's ready to be at his best, he'll be at his best."

Nabers recently posted on his Instagram: "I done made it out the dark and I'm REAL REAL MAD!! And Harbaugh? He's 14 years removed from his Super Bowl championship."

"He's got a chip on his shoulder," Dart said. "I'm interested to see how his demeanor continues to grow as we go forward."

Dart, 4-8 as a starter, has one as well. "Because we didn't have a good year last year," he said. "I can't wait for this upcoming year. This whole offseason I've just been waiting to get back with the guys."

He was waiting for Cam Skattebo, who bellowed his trademark "Woooo!" when he hit the practice field and looked good. Beckham also was moving well in his comeback try.

But most of all, Dart has been waiting for Malik Nabers. Shortly after the 2025 NFL Draft, I asked former Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin about Dart and Nabers. "They'll be an amazing pair for a long time to come," Kiffin said. Maybe that time comes soon after all.

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TRADE CONFIDENTIAL

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Why it's so hard for teams loaded with lefties to find help from the other side of the plate

RIGHT TRACK

SWING AWAY: Curtis Mead (below) offers a good example (and a cautionary tale) of the kind of return selling teams can get for good right-handed hitters in the current market. Given that, top righties like Jo Adell could soon be on the move to contenders. Getty Images (2)

THE WHITE whale of this trade deadline might be Mason Miller or Tarik Skubal.

Or — stick with me — it could be a difference-making righty hitter.

They might not be the T-206 Honus Wagner baseball card for rarity. But they are hard to find in this marketplace, and that was before injuries in the past week took a few players of interest — the A's Shea Langeliers, the Giants' Casey Schmitt and the Reds' Spencer Steer — off the board.

What is rare is valuable, and so you can imagine the prices being high for this genre, which might help the Mets acquire some value for even the expiring contracts of Luis Robert Jr. and the really hot for a month-plus Tyrone Taylor.

Consider that Curtis Mead was designated for assignment by the White Sox in late March and was dealt in a seemingly nothing trade to the Nationals. But for Washington, the once well-regarded prospect broke out with 17 homers and a .852 OPS, including seven homers and a .897 OPS against lefties. So despite little other positive MLB track record for Mead and the March DFA, Washington recently was able to turn him into a young starter, Connelly Early, who had a 3.24 ERA in 21 major league starts.

This being a potentially hexed item, Mead fractured his left wrist in his first game with the Red Sox, and so it is possible he is done for the rest of the season.

The commonality among nearly every contender at this time of year is they are looking for late-game bullpen help and a righty hitter. The Yankees, for example, fall into that category and specifically want a righty-hitting catcher — and then another righty bat on top of that.

The Yankees had the third-fewest plate appearances by righty hitters this year (all stats through Tuesday) — the contending Guardians had the fewest. The Yankees actually had the third-best OPS by righty hitters, but with Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton still amid a long-term absence and Amed Rosario struggling in the right-vs.-left role for which he was signed, the Yanks are hungering for righty bats.

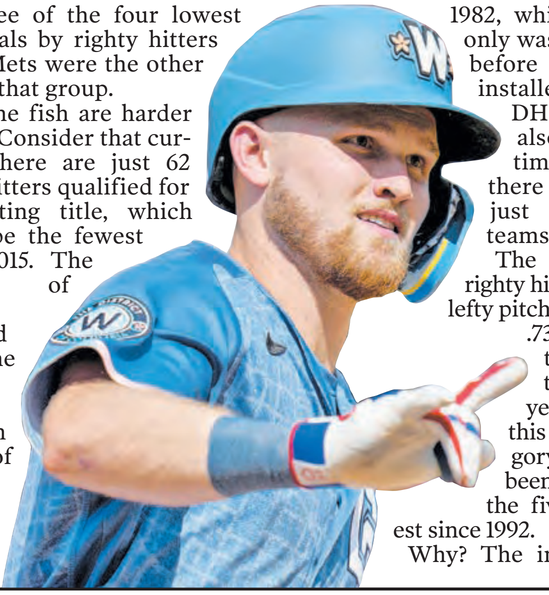
As the Twins improve their contending status and insist publicly they are buying, not selling, the chances for the Yankees to land righty-hitting catcher Ryan Jeffers could be dimming. Unless the Cubs decide to use Carson Kelly as a vehicle to get pitching or Colorado's Hunter Goodman is really available, the Yankees may have to shoot a lot lower like the A's switch-hitting Jonah Heim (.838 OPS this year against southpaws).

That would amplify the need to find a righty bat elsewhere because the Twins' Byron Buxton just went on the IL (hip) yet again and has never said he would waive his no-trade clause. The Astros are also going for it, so Isaac Paredes and Jeremy Peña are unavailable.

Taylor, the Angels' Jo Adell, Kansas City's Lane Thomas and Toronto's George Springer (who has a full no-trade clause) are known to be available. The Yankees have long liked Washington center fielder Jacob Young, who notably brings excellent defense but probably is off limits. Would the open-for-business Marlins discuss rising outfielder Heriberto Hernández (the prices for Otto Lopez and switch-hitter Xavier Edwards are viewed as substantial to even get consideration). Will Baltimore sell with walk-year Taylor Ward?

And the Yankees are far from alone in fishing in these waters. For example, the contending Phillies, Mariners and Braves had three of the four lowest OPS totals by righty hitters — the Mets were the other team in that group.

And the fish are harder to land. Consider that currently there are just 62 righty hitters qualified for the batting title, which would be the fewest since 2015. The number of righties qualified for the batting title with an OPS+ of league average (100) or better had dropped from 61 in 2022 to 55 to 52 to 52 again in 2025 and 39 this year, which would be the lowest since 36 in 1982, which not only was a year before the AL installed the DH but also was a time when there were just 24 teams.



The OPS of righty hitters vs. lefty pitching was .731 and the past three years in this category have been among the five lowest since 1992.

Why? The industry knows this is a problem without having a unified reason. One head of baseball operations said, "The slider and sweeper trend [from the majority righty pitching] could be a reason that teams are building lineups a certain way. Righties are tougher to break into the majors. They take more time it seems. The righty-hitting, righty-throwing corner profile is dying out. I don't want our drafts to have a R/R corner profile until after the fifth round usually."

Also, since 2020, relievers must face three batters minimum and that has evolved the left-on-left relief specialist out of the game, and now southpaw relievers must be able to get righty hitters out.

Whatever the reasons, there are fewer strong righty batters — while the hunger for them at this time of year remains intense.

The real fight is outside the ring
A NEW CRIME DRAMA FROM
CURTIS "50 CENT" JACKSON
FIGHTLAND
JULY 31
STARZ

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MAN' ON A MISSION

Lefty turns back clock in twin-bill split as deadline nears

By MIKE PUMA

Sean Manaea is pitching like somebody who wants out of Queens and into a playoff race.

After frustrating the Dodgers last week in his best start of the season, the left-hander returned to face another first-place team Wednesday and produced a similar result.

Manaea allowed two runs over six innings in the Mets' 3-2 victory over the Braves in the first game of a doubleheader at Citi Field. The Mets managed only two hits against Chris Sale and the Braves bullpen in a 1-0 loss in the nightcap.

METS	**3**	**Game 1; Box. Page 40**
BRAVES	**2**	
BRAVES	**1**	**Game 2; Box. Page 40**
METS	**0**	

These past two starts were certainly peak Manaea — the version the Mets have awaited all season. The crescendo builds as Monday's trade deadline approaches.

"I'm a Met and I'm happy to be here," Manaea said. "There is nothing I can do about [the trade deadline] so I am not worried about it."

At issue is how much of an obstacle the roughly $33 million that the 34-year-old Manaea is still owed through next season presents. But if Manaea's past two starts are any indication, he may have rediscovered the form that earned him a three-year, $75 million contract before last season.

Manaea allowed one earned run over six innings against the Dodgers last Friday. He carried a shutout into the sixth inning on this day before Matt Olson delivered a two-run homer.

More Mets / Page 50

"I just see confidence and conviction," interim manager Andy Green said of Manaea's recent surge, noting the pitcher's uptick in velocity. "I see someone who is on the attack the entire time. Had that game spun a little bit differently it would have been a situation where going seven or eight [innings] was entirely possible. I didn't see him tiring. He fell behind a couple of really good hitters and paid the price for it there, but the rest of the game he was in total control."

Freddy Peralta and Clay Holmes are the likely members of the Mets starting rotation to be dealt by Monday. Both are headed to free agency after this season and are battle-tested arms, but Peralta's 4.99 ERA this season isn't helping the Mets. Holmes hasn't pitched for the team since May while rehabbing a fractured fibula, but is close to ready following two minor league rehab starts.

The wild card is Manaea, who emerged as the Mets ace during their 2024 surge to the NLCS. After slumping last year he began this season in the bullpen and gradually regained steam.

"Sean wants to be a horse for the team," Green said. "He wants to take the baseball. He wants to go deep into games. He wants to save the bullpen. All amazing attributes and when he's sitting at that velocity range [91-92 mph] and really trusting himself, he's capable every night."

Francisco Alvarez's rope double to left field in the fifth produced the game's first run. Tyrone Taylor drew a walk leading off the inning before Alvarez delivered for his 27th RBI this season. A.J. Ewing's ensuing sacrifice fly scored Brett Baty, who singled in the inning.

Manaea finally dented in the sixth, when Olson smashed a two-run homer to tie it 2-2. Drake Baldwin doubled leading off the inning before Olson cleared the fence in right-center for his 28th homer this season.

Carson Benge's RBI double in the seventh gave the Mets a 3-2 lead. Ewing and Francisco Lindor both walked to begin the rally.

Manaea's ERA dropped to 4.42 with his latest outing, in which he allowed five hits and two walks with a hit batter and four strikeouts over 89 pitches.

"There's been a lot of hard work put in this whole year," Manaea said. "Ultimately the opponent doesn't matter, but I just feel good with where I'm at mechanically and pitch-wise."

Christian Scott allowed one earned run on five hits over six innings in the nightcap with seven strikeouts and one walk. The right-hander's ERA dropped to 2.99.

Olson's RBI single in the sixth gave the Braves their only run.

Scott's outing was his first this season in which he completed six innings.

"I felt I have had a couple opportunities to go six this season, but at the end I wasn't able," Scott said. "Hopefully the next one is seven."

mpuma@nypost.com

ON DECK: vs. Marlins

Thursday, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Nolan McLean

2026 stats:
7-7, 3.32 ERA

Career vs. MIA:
1-0, 1.80 ERA

Last start:
Sat. vs. LAD;
6 IP, 7 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

33%	20%	15%
Sinker	4-Seamer	Sweeper

RHP Eury Pérez

2026 stats:
5-8, 3.56 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
1-3, 6.46 ERA

Last start:
Sat. vs. SD;
7 IP, 7 H, 3 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

42%	15%	14%
4-Seamer	Slider	Sweeper

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: vs. Marlins, 7:10 p.m., PIX11, WHSQ
RHP Freddy Peralta vs. RHP Janson Junk

SATURDAY: vs. Marlins, 4:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
LHP Zac Thornton vs. RHP Tyler Phillips

INJURY REPORT

■ **Juan Soto** will be sidelined until September after landing on the injured list Saturday with a left calf strain. Soto missed nearly three weeks in April with a right calf strain.

Experience gives Weaver peace amid trade rumors

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

There are 23 teams either in a playoff spot or within 5 ½ games of one, which means there are 23 teams that would welcome Luke Weaver to their bullpen.

With trade rumors and reports swirling and plastered "on the front page of my Instagram or my newspaper that I don't read," Weaver said to laughs, a battle-tested pitcher continued to show that he can pitch through pressure.

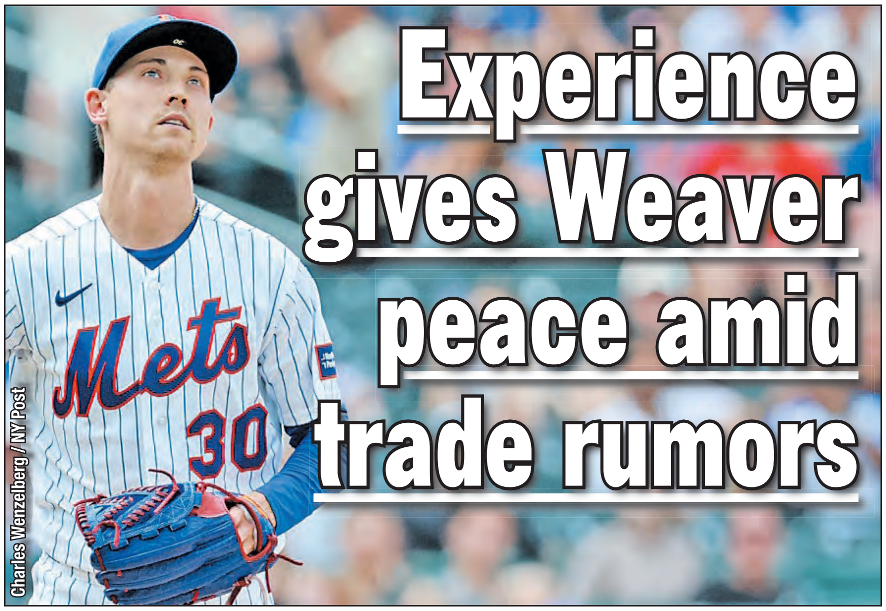
Weaver is enhancing his trade value — and his value to the Mets, who do not have to trade him — during a stretch in which the toss-up reality of his immediate future does not seem to matter to him on the mound.

"It [was] certainly a lot harder in the past," Weaver said about dealing with the uncertainty after firing another scoreless inning in a 3-2, doubleheader-opening victory over the Braves at Citi Field on Wednesday. "But unfortunately and fortunately, I've had a lot of experience through different waves of these circumstances — experience to lean into, offseason, in season, for good, for bad. So I think that gives me peace."

Weaver has pitched for seven teams in parts of nine major league seasons, been traded twice and designated for assignment twice. After his second DFA he was claimed by the Yankees, who converted him to a reliever, watched him soar and last offseason watched him sign a two-year, $22 million pact with the Mets.

So the 32-year-old has been here, which is apparent as he flourishes during a challenging moment. Since May, he has pitched in 29 games and allowed one earned run.

He also is happy with where he literally is, which matters because the Mets are not obligated to trade him like they are with walk-year bullpen arms in Brooks Raley and A.J. Minter (who himself threw a scoreless inning in the 1-0 nightcap loss).


Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT: Luke Weaver has pitched for seven teams in parts of nine MLB seasons, so he's used to being moved. The reliever said he and his wife are enjoying their time in Queens, even if they're "mentally prepared to an extent" for a trade.

Weaver, due $11 million next season, could be a part of a 2027 Mets team that will want to compete.

He is "absolutely" enjoying life with the Mets, he said, pointing to the relationships he has formed and the clubhouse culture.

"It's been a real joy to come in every day, even in an environment that isn't winning like we had hoped," Weaver said after lowering his ERA to 1.88 with a one-hit, one-strikeout eighth inning. "I think [losing clubhouses] can be a very dreaded environment from time to time in certain situations, but to me I've never had that. I think it's disappointing after games when you're not winning. The winning is great, but you also want the consistency of what you bring on a daily basis when you walk in through the door, and that has definitely matched that in such a positive way, and it's a testament to the people they have here."

Weaver said he and his wife are "mentally prepared to an extent" for a trade, "but we're also not by any means one foot out the door." He referenced the fact the Mets are not about to embark upon a rebuild and will want to win soon.

Which complicates the future of a pitcher who is showing he can help them win.

"Luke's really good [and] valuable to us not just this season, the remainder, but also the next season," interim manager Andy Green said. "Nobody knows how the next few days are going to go."

msanchez@nypost.com

Struggling Polanco reaches new low in win

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

In one dugout was the kind of first base torch-passing that will be referenced for decades, a seamless transition from an aging star to a younger version.

In the other dugout was the kind of first base torch-passing that sees the torch get fumbled to the ground and sets the whole place on fire.

With Matt Olson, who assumed the position of Freddie Freeman so naturally, watching and homering for Atlanta, Jorge Polanco again did not look much like Pete Alonso.

Because he is signed through next year, Polanco still has time to endear himself to his team and the team's fans, but with each game and each at-bat right now he is making one of David Stearns' key offseason decisions look a bit worse.

Polanco's struggles continued Wednesday afternoon, when he went 0-for-3 with three strikeouts and, perhaps most tellingly, opted for a sacrifice bunt rather than swinging away in what became a 3-2 Mets win over the Braves in the opening end of a doubleheader at Citi Field.

Since returning from nearly three months on the injured list with both wrist and ankle issues, Polanco entered the nightcap 4-for-41 (.098) with three singles and a double. He had logged at least one strikeout in eight of his past nine games, a stretch in which he was punched out 13 times in 29 at-bats. He has not swung like Alonso.

Every one of those at-bats has come as the designated hitter, the 33-year-old unable to play the field because of his Achilles bursitis. He has not played defense like Alonso.

In his final at-bat, with the bases loaded in the seventh inning against former Met Danny Young, Polanco swung through a sweeper and heard loud boos — even following a frame in which his team took the lead — all the way to the dugout. The fans, too, are not treating him like Alonso.

Andy Green said Polanco is still searching for his timing after his 12th game back from the IL — and reminded reporters of the type of player Polanco has been in his career.

"He squared up [Tarik] Skubal for two home runs in the postseason last year," the interim manager said of Polanco's memorable Game 2 of the ALDS with the Mariners. "He is ridiculously good. And he hasn't been able to find his timing or rhythm right-handed [or] left-handed.

"He's obviously dealt with injuries all year, so he's someone that we know we're one swing away. We'd all like that swing to get here."

That the Mets allowed Alonso to walk to Baltimore for five years and $155 million is defensible considering a projected downturn and defensive concerns. That they replaced him with an older infielder with a history of injuries and virtually no experience at first was more curious and, at least in Year 1, has backfired. Polanco has not been healthy or productive, and neither has their Plan B in Mark Vientos.

Polanco is a year removed from establishing himself as a postseason hero and homering 26 times with an .821 OPS. With better health, he has time to rebound.

But his confidence, too, might need to rebound, considering his greetings in Queens and considering his sixth-inning at-bat, when he followed a leadoff single from Jared Young with a sacrifice bunt, a move seldom seen in today's game and rarely from a slugger capable of inflicting damage. Young did not come around to score.

After the game, Polanco was not made available for an interview because he had too much to do in the training room, a Mets official said.

WHEELING AND DEALING? Sean Manaea allowed two runs over six innings in the opening game of a twin bill against the Braves on Wednesday at Citi Field. The lefty is certainly pitching well at the right time, but time will tell if the $33 million owed through next year is too high a price for a contender to pay for his services.

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

WHITE OUT

Yanks blow lead — first in eighth, then in 11th — to drop painful game to Chisox

By GREG JOYCE

WHITE SOX 6
YANKEES 5
12th inning
Box./P. 40

CHICAGO — The bullpen was long expected to be an area the Yankees would need to address by the trade deadline, but on the way there, their relief corps became a pleasant surprise.

Five days away from the deadline, though, an overworked group had a rough night — compounded by a brutal decision from Ali Sánchez when they were one out away from winning it anyway.

In a game where three of the best Yankees relievers were unavailable because of recent workload concerns, the bullpen blew a three-run lead in the eighth, a one-run lead in the 11th and then lost it in the 12th as Ryan Yarbrough gave up a walk-off single for a crushing 6-5 loss to the White Sox on Wednesday night at Rate Field.

Paul Blackburn gave up a pair of home runs on back-to-back pitches in the eighth inning, turning a 4-1 lead into a tie game. The final blow came four innings later, when Yarbrough, the last man available in the bullpen, allowed a bloop single to Edgar Quero that fell in front of Trent Grisham, who appeared to be playing deeper than he needed to.

And along the way, the Yankees wasted chances to score, including loading the bases with one out in the top of the 12th and not being able to push anything across.

But the most agonizing part of the loss came in the bottom of the 11th, after Anthony Volpe's sacrifice fly had put the Yankees ahead 5-4, and Camilo Doval entered to get two quick outs with some terrific defense behind him. The Yankees were one out away from the win, with Munetaka Murakami at third, when Sánchez tried to back-pick him. Instead, his throw bounced past Ryan McMahon — who was shifted toward second but ran to third on the play — allowing Murakami to run home to tie the game.

"Me and McMahon felt he was getting a little slow back to the base," Sánchez said. "Just made a bad throw."

Sánchez, who had entered the game in the 10th after Austin Wells was pinch run for, indicated he would attempt the throw again if he could do it all over, which Aaron Boone echoed.

"Just got to execute the throw," Boone said. "Just playing catch. We're big leaguers, we're not going to not do things. Obviously an option's [to] hold it, but it comes down to we got to play catch better."

The Yankees (61-47), who are now 1-7 in extra-inning games this season, fell to 2 ½ games back of the Rays for first place in the AL East. They will try to still win the four-game series against the White Sox (56-51) on Thursday.

Playing so many close games of late in large part because of the lineup's inability to blow things open, the Yankees have had to ask a lot of their bullpen. On Wednesday, that meant not having David Bednar, Brent Headrick and Angel Chivilli available after each had thrown on back-to-back days (and Bednar four of the last five).

Cam Schlittler got the Yankees off to a strong start, carrying a one-hit shutout into the seventh inning before losing his command and exiting with one out and a 4-1 lead — with all four Yankees runs coming in the first inning, three on a Spencer Jones home run.

Fernando Cruz relieved Schlittler and stranded both runners, but then gave up a leadoff double in the eighth.

One out later, Blackburn entered for the top of the order and what would have been a five-out save. The reliever had been so good of late, pitching to a 0.92 ERA over his last 25 games since May 16, but could not do it again Wednesday. He threw a 1-1 fastball at the top of the zone to Sam Antonacci, who crushed it to right field for a two-run shot that pulled the White Sox within 4-3.

Murakami came up next and pounced on a first-pitch curveball just below the zone, sending it into the left field seats to tie the game.

"Honestly, I felt like I made my pitches," Blackburn said. "Those guys are good too. It sucks. You just got to keep going, keep making your pitches. Definitely let everyone down in here tonight, but come back [Thursday] and get a win."

Blackburn went on to throw a scoreless ninth before Tim Hill did the same in the 10th, even after his wild pitch allowed the automatic runner to reach third with no outs.

But in the end, it was still not enough to spare the Yankees a gut-punch loss.

"I thought we had a good battle," Schlittler said. "Some mental mistakes, but that's baseball. It's part of the game."

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INJURY REPORT

- **Carlos Rodón** (left elbow inflammation) threw two simulated innings Wednesday with around 30 pitches as he continues his ramp-up towards potentially returning by late August.
- **Aaron Judge** (right rib stress fracture) is with the Yankees in Chicago, but they do not have a set date yet for when he might get his next round of imaging.

ON DECK

at White Sox

Thursday, 2:10 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Ryan Weathers

2026 stats:
4-7, 4.25 ERA

Career vs. CWS:
0-0, 1.42 ERA

Last start:
Sat., at PHI;
5.2 IP, 6 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

4-Seamer	Change	Sweeper
26%	25%	20%

RHP Sean Burke

2026 stats:
7-5, 3.19 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
1-0, 1.23 ERA

Last start:
Sat., vs. HOU;
6 IP, 2 ER, 10 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

4-Seamer	Curve	Slider
37%	21%	18%

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: at Cubs,
2:20 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

SATURDAY: at Cubs,
7:15 p.m., Fox, WFAN
TBD vs. LHP David Peterson

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THIS REALLY SOX: The White Sox's Miguel Vargas celebrates with Edgar Quero after Quero delivered a backbreaking walk-off hit in the 12th inning that handed the Yankees a 6-5 loss in a game they led twice. AP

Catchers' link to staff a big plus

By GREG JOYCE

CHICAGO — In a sport where just about everything can be bottled up into a metric of some kind, a catcher's impact on his pitching staff may be impossible to measure.

There are framing stats, sure, but that is only part of it. There is the game planning ahead of time, learning everything about the opposing team's 13 hitters and even more about the 13 pitchers on the catcher's own staff, knowing what pitch to call when, and how to guide their pitcher through the ups and downs of nine innings on a given night.

So perhaps you will just have to take Gerrit Cole and Max Fried at their word when the veteran pitchers talk about the value of Austin Wells and Ali Sánchez (plus J.C. Escarra earlier this season) on the Yankees pitching staff, which entered Wednesday with the lowest ERA (3.40) in the majors.

"They deserve a lot of credit for the run prevention," said Cole, who brought up the catchers unprompted after throwing six shutout innings against the White Sox on Tuesday night. "Obviously we have good pitchers, but they're back there doing a lot of prep for us and making a lot of the right calls and getting us out of jams. It's been a good team effort overall."

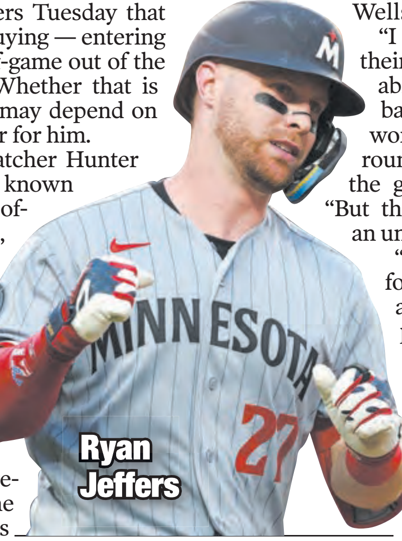
"Catching is a very difficult thing, especially in this game today where you have to study and know exactly the game plan for the hitters that you're facing, but also game plan for the pitcher," Fried said. "We put a lot of emphasis on game planning and making sure that we're really prepared. They've been doing a really great job. ... We've had the lowest ERA in baseball, and a big part of that is them."

This is not to say that the Yankees should not acquire a catcher at the trade deadline; they clearly need offensive help at that position, plus a few others. But it is a caveat that the situation the Yankees face is not as simple as just bringing in any catcher they can get their hands on to take over for Wells simply because he can swing the bat better.

The backbone of the Yankees — and the key to their roadmap for October success — is their rotation, and they will have to be careful about doing anything that would potentially disrupt the good thing they have going in that area.

But it remains to be seen what kind of catchers — with two of the top framers in the game in Wells and Sánchez — will actually be available in the coming days. The name most often linked to the Yankees is the Twins' Ryan Jeffers, who is a solid framer and has some history with Yankees catching director Tanner Swanson. But Twins GM Jeremy Zoll told reporters Tuesday that his club planned on buying — entering Wednesday just a half-game out of the final AL wild card. Whether that is just posturing or not may depend on what the Yankees offer for him.

There is Rockies catcher Hunter Goodman, but he is known much more for his offense than his defense, and with multiple years of control left, may not be dealt at all. They have also checked in on Orioles switch-hitting catcher Adley Rutschman, The Post' Jon Heyman reported, though the high-level framer is currently on the IL with left wrist inflammation.



Ryan Jeffers

And then there is some offensive drop-off into the next tier of catchers, though there is plenty of drop-off to get to Wells, who entered Wednesday as one of the worst hitters in the major leagues this season — batting .162 with a .534 OPS, and that is even after batting .250 with a .954 OPS over his last 11 games before an 0-for-4 night Wednesday.

The right-handed-hitting Sánchez has produced against lefties in particular in a limited sample size — batting .333 with an .876 OPS in 28 plate appearances — though the Yankees are still trying to see if they can find an upgrade to pair with Wells.

"I know they work their butts off being able to take good at-bats and they're working to be able to round out that side of the game," Fried said. "But they've been doing an unbelievable job."

"It's a bit of an unforgiving position," added Cole. "It's physically challenging, mentally challenging as well, playing both sides of the ball. So we like to love on those guys as much as we can."

Stellar Schlittler leaves some traffic

By GREG JOYCE

CHICAGO — For most of Wednesday night, Cam Schlittler was unhittable.

But the Yankees right-hander was left with a sour taste in his mouth after an otherwise terrific start ended poorly on the way to a brutal 6-5, 12-inning loss to the White Sox at Rate Field.

Schlittler had allowed just one baserunner — a broken-bat single in the fourth inning — entering the seventh, with the Yankees leading 4-0, before he walked Munetaka Murakami on a full count. His next pitch was a 98 mph sinker that hit Miguel Vargas on the hands, and one out later, Andrew Benintendi roped a double down the right-field line to score the White Sox's first run and end Schlittler's night.

"I think the walk there is frustrating," Schlittler said of his first free pass in three starts. "Tried to go in on Vargas, hit him. So they didn't really earn it, I just kind of gave it to them. Frustrating. But it's how it goes sometimes."

Schlittler, who struck out eight and unveiled a harder, biting curveball that he used to his advantage, was also left regretting a pitch selection to Benintendi, which Gerrit Cole had a conversation with him about in the dugout.

"Shook [off] a pitch to Benintendi, didn't execute it," Schlittler said. "Probably had more wiggle room with the pitch Wells called. That's on me."

YANKEES NOTES

➤ In the last few years, **Aaron Boone** has pounded the table for the Yankees to acquire certain players, including David Bednar and Alex Verdugo, both of whom ended up on his roster.

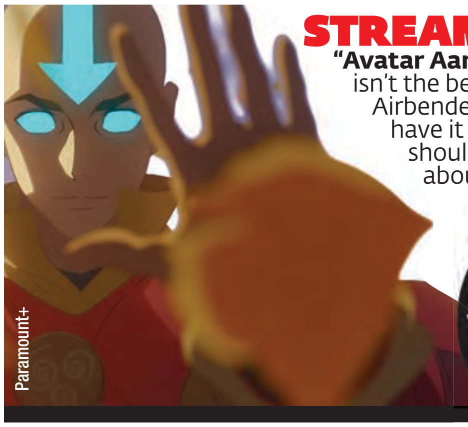
As another trade deadline nears, the Yankees manager is making his opinion known to the front office again with a few names in mind.

"Oh yeah," he said with a grin, of course unwilling to disclose what those names were.

But Boone is keeping in touch with general manager **Brian Cashman** and his lieutenants, offering an occasional "thought bubble" as the Yankees try to wade through the uncertainty of which teams are selling and which players are actually available ahead of Monday's deadline.

"At the end of the day, the front office has been working hard at this for certainly weeks, but it's even years in the making where you're evaluating other organizations, evaluating your own organization so you're prepared to move when something potentially comes up," Boone said. "They're all down there [in Tampa] ready to do their thing and if something presents itself, then you strike."

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*



Paramount+

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"Avatar Aang: The Last Airbender" (Paramount+) isn't the be-all-end-all killer-of-killers of "Last Airbender" films, but knowing that they likely have it in them for future endeavors means we shouldn't get all, you know, bent out of shape about it. Not at all. **OUR CALL: STREAM IT**

WHAT TO WATCH

Looking for another popular Western drama to watch now that **"Dutton Ranch"** has wrapped its debut season? Netflix's hit series **"Ransom Canyon"** is at your service. Based on Jodi Thomas' novel of the same name, April Blair's series takes viewers back to Texas and delivers drama, romance, ranching, and a whole lot of heart.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

EVENING THE SCORE

Emmy Rossum and Liz Meriwether want you to get angry watching 'Furious'

By HOPE SLOOP

In Emmy Rossum and Liz Meriwether's new Hulu series, **"Furious,"** the women aren't just getting mad; they're getting even.

In "Furious," Rossum stars as FBI Agent Alice Black, a former NYPD detective tracking down a female serial killer (Lola Petticrew) who is going after high-powered men. On the side of Petticrew's character, there's the pent-up anger that is driving her murder spree, but on the side of Rossum's character, there is a trauma that enables her to tap into that reserve of wrath and hunt down her suspect. In short, these women are mad as hell and are actually doing something about it.

"Rage is an interesting thing because it can certainly be dangerous in society and is not helpful, especially for Alice in her job. She needs to be very removed from that heat, but she has a lot of drive. But I think that she's really unaware of the level of her own rage and is really kind of starting to embrace and understand how it's governing her and leading her in a way that she's not aware of at first," Rossum told DECIDER of channeling that strong emotion into this performance. "I think that rage probably gets a bad rep, but there's a lot of energy behind it and it can be a connector, and it can galvanize a movement."

While rage seems like a perfectly natural jumping-off point for any writer worth their salt to base a show around, it could be perceived as a head-scratcher for Meriwether, who is best known for her work in comedy. The **"New Girl"** and **"Single Parents"** creator may not have had much experience writing pure ire in many of her other projects, but she describes it as a liberating (if not slightly difficult) experience in capturing another side of humanity in her characters.

"I'm a comedy writer; I mean, before this show, I kind of mostly had written comedy and I think as somebody who writes comedy, I am a very good deflector. I think I use comedy sometimes to deflect from feeling feelings like anger, so it was interesting writing this show because I had to get a little bit more comfortable with anger on the page. Not even in real life, but like writing angry scenes and things. That was interesting and uncomfortable for me in a good way," Meriwether said.

Hulu

Liz Meriwether (right) created, wrote, and executive produced Hulu's "Furious," starring Emmy Rossum (above) and Scoot McNairy (left).

Meriwether said that it did help while writing the show to remember, however, that anger and rage cannot exist in a vacuum, and that every character has to experience the full breadth of humanity. It also allows the project to transition from a black-widow cat-and-mouse game to a narrative about trauma and the wide array of things that can happen to any person who lets their physical, emotional, and psychological wounds go untreated.

"I think there is a lot of rage in the show, but it's not the only thing in this show. If the answer was just, 'Let's all get angry together,' it wouldn't make for good television. It sort of explores the feeling of anger and then also explores how it can trap you, how it can feel so good, but then ultimately not feel good in the end. It's hopefully digging into the experience of being a victim and just how complicated and messy that can be and lead to a lot of different roads that someone can go down," Meriwether said.

For Rossum, it also allows for her own character to see Petticrew's as much more than just a scorned woman on a path for vengeance or some heartless killer. Seeing one woman who has been harmed and taken advantage of go after justice — the DIY karmic kind, that is — might even allow for her to explore how she, too, can find a sense of retribution for a crime that has gone unpunished.

"The connection between these women and the kind of invisible thread between them of sisterhood, how we realize that they're more similar than they are different, it's very powerful," Rossum said. "In fact, Alice will start to wonder if the quest for vengeance that this killer is on is not stirring something within her and the justice that she quietly seeks for herself."

The first three episodes of "Furious" are now streaming on Hulu. New episodes are released on Mondays.

Disney

TRENDING NOW

"American Idol" has landed another season at ABC and Disney+. Auditions for Season 25 of the series—which will mark its 10th season at ABC—are set to begin in August.

WHAT'S NEW

ON DISCOVERY

"**How to Train a Great White**," a "Shark Week" installment.

ON NETFLIX

"**The Bombing of Pan Am 103**," a limited series (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

COMEDY

Rush Hour: 6 p.m. on TNT. Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker. A loyal and dedicated Hong Kong Inspector teams up with a reckless L.A.P.D. detective to rescue a girl.

DRAMA

Cast Away: 8 p.m. on USA. Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. A FedEx executive undergoes a physical and emotional transformation after crash landing on an island.

ADVENTURE

Flipper: 9:45 p.m. on TCM. Chuck Connors, Luke Halpin. After rescuing a dolphin, he makes fast friends with the sea mammal.

Thursday July 30, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Big Brother		First Marriage (R)	(9:31) Ghosts: T-Daddy	(10:01) First Marriage	Ghosts: Life and Times	CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics (R)
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	Surviving Earth: When America Flooded		The Americas: The Atlantic Coast Fun Fact Edition		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: Vivid (R)		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Extra	TMZ	The 1% Club: Singles Night (R)		Best Medicine: The Bogfather (R)		The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York	Feud Favorites (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!: Wildcard (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Family Feud: 2 Chainz vs Eric André		(9:01) Press Your Luck: I Intend To Win		The Greatest Average American: Golly, I Don't (R)		News	(11:35) Kimmel Live (R)
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Dateline: The Stranger		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Chicago P.D.: Fallen	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(6:00) PIX11 News at 6	Seinfeld: The Beard	The Big Bang Theory	Trivial Pursuit: History of the World (R)		Scrabble: Thread Lightly (R)		PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC World News	The PBS News Hour		The U.S. and the Holocaust: Insight and Understanding (R)			My Music Presents: Barry Bostwick Presents Classical Rewind			Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Nature: Soul of the (R)		NOVA: Pluto & Beyond		A Time in Space		Bugs That Rule (R)		BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Laura	Great Conversations		Food.	Potluck	Roots	Feet	Hospitality and Politics		My World	LBJ Library
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) FBI	FBI: Trigger Effect		FBI: Straight Flush		FBI: All That Glitters		FBI: Hacktivist		FBI: Trauma	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Corazon de Oro		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Operación Triunfo				El Señor de los Cielos		Lejos de Ti		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Defending Life		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	First 48 (R)	The First 48 (R)		The First 48: Rumors Kill		Accused: Guilty or		(10:01) Accused: Guilty or		(11:04) Accused: Guilty or	
AMC	54	43	231	(5:45) The Martian (2015, Science Fiction) Matt Damon. PG-13 ★★★½					TNA iMPACT!				Walking Dead: Dead City	
BBCAM	71	101	189	(6:00) Air Force One (1997, Thriller) Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman. R					The Fugitive (1993, Action) Harrison Ford. PG-13 ★★★½					
BET	37	54	270	(6:40) Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud: Maulers vs.			Just Wright (2010, Comedy) Queen Latifah. PG ★★					
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	(7:01) Real Housewives		Real Housewives of Orange County			Housewives: Betrayals		Real Housewives (R)		In City (R)
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office: Fun Run		The Office	The Office	Daily Show	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	Secrets	Alien Sharks		What Shark Attacked?		To Train a Great White		Ultimate Shark Dive		Catching a Killer	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Big City	Big City	Phineas	Phineas	Wizards	Phineas	Phineas	Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Ocean's Eleven (2001)		Ocean's Twelve (2004, Crime) George Clooney. PG-13 ★★½						Ocean's Thirteen (2007) PG-13 ★★★		
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports	MLB Baseball: Washington Nationals at Atlanta Braves from Truist Park. Live.						SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	Cornhole	College	International Friendly: Leeds United at Sunderland.				WWE		What Do Yo	WWE	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Restaurant Impossible		Ramsay's Secret Service		Ramsay's Secret Service		Kitchen Nightmares	
FREE	38	49	199	(5:30) Turning Red (2022)		(7:35) Coco (2017, Adventure) Anthony Gonzalez. PG ★★★½					Project Runway		The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	Harvick	The Basketball Live.				Travis	Harvick's	Harvick	NHRA Drag Racing Replay.		
FX	10	40	53	(5:30) Ford v Ferrari (2019, Drama) Matt Damon, Christian Bale.					The Bear: Caramel (R)		(10:06) Jason Bourne (2016, Action) Matt Damon. ★★½			
HALL		191	240	(6:00) She's Making a List (2025)			Haul Out the Holly (2022, Comedy) Lacey Chabert. G				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	Crashers	Ugliest House in America		Ugliest House in America		My Rental	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Secrets (R)	Secrets Declassified (R)		Secrets Declassified (R)		Secrets Declassified		(10:03) Ancient Aliens		(11:05) Ancient Aliens (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Evil Here	Evil Lives Here		Married to Evil		A Killer Among Friends		Game Day Murders		Murder Under the Friday	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Endgame		NCIS: Power Down		NCIS: Child's Play		(10:03) NCIS: Faith		(11:03) NCIS: Ignition	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	(6:00) MMA	NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants Town		NY Knicks 2026 Championship Parade Replay.					
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:00) FanDuel Racing					NHL Hockey: New Jersey Devils at Boston Bruins.				Stanley Pup (R)	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Ridiculous	Jersey Shore: Family (R)		Jersey Shore: Family		Jersey Shore: No Longer		(10:01) Next Friday (2000, Comedy) Ice Cube. R ★★½			
NATGEO	65	162	121	Treasures	Treasure Greece (R)		Treasure Greece (R)		Lost Treasures Greece		Lost Treasures Greece		Treasure Greece (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	The Boss Baby: Family Business (2021) PG ★★½				Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	(11:15) Big Bang Theory	
OWN	173	180	145	Family	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		What's Love Got to Do with It? (1993, Drama) Angela Bassett. ★★★					First-Time
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy) Anna Kendrick.				(8:40) Pitch Perfect 2 (2015, Comedy) Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson. PG-13 ★★★						Pitch Perf
SNY	26	60	77	Pre Game	MLB Baseball: Miami Marlins at New York Mets from Citi Field. Live.						Post Game	Sports	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Twister ★★½	Red (2010, Action) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★½					Red 2 (2013, Action) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★				
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)
TCM	82	41	230	(6:15) The Cincinnati Kid (1965, Drama)			Easy to Love (1934) Genevieve Tobin.			(9:45) Flipper (1963, Family) Chuck Connors. G ★★½				Everglades
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day: Last (R)		90 Day: The Last Resort		Little Singles		Jay & Pamela (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	Rush Hour (1998, Action) Jackie Chan.			All Elite Wrestling: Collision				Rush Hour 2 (2001, Action) Jackie Chan. PG-13 ★★★			
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Raymond: Liars		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Cast Away (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks. PG-13 ★★★½						Cast Away (2000) ★★★½	
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Boomerang (1992, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. R ★★						Maid in Manhattan (2002)	
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Doppelganger		NCIS: The Meat Puzzle		NCIS: Witness		NCIS: Caught on Tape		NCIS: Pop Life	
YES	53	89	76	Minor League Baseball Live.					Homegrown	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Chicago White Sox. Replay.				
HBO	511	301	400	Dragon (R)	(7:08) Ocean's 8 (2018, Action) Sandra Bullock. ★★½				The Man Will Burn		The Man Will Burn (R)		House of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	Pac Rim 2	(7:06) Happy Death Day (2017, Horror)			The House (2017, Comedy) Will Ferrell.			Red Riding Hood (2011, Fantasy) Amanda Seyfried.			
MGM Plus	595		395	The Saint (1997, Adventure) Val Kilmer.			The Fast and the Furious (2001) ★★★			(9:50) Face/Off (1997, Action) John Travolta, Nicolas Cage. R ★★★				
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:50) Hacksaw Ridge (2016, Drama) R			Ghost in the Shell (2017, Action) Scarlett Johansson.				The Chi: The Last Dance		Kiss the Girls (1997) R ★★★	

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LEEK STEALS THE SHOW

Star Giants receiver Malik Nabers tore his ACL in Week 4 last year, ending his season. Continuing his comeback, he avoided the PUP list last week and practiced with the team Wednesday, the first day of training camp. Even better for Big Blue, he looked good doing it. **PAGES 54-55, 51**

On Harbaugh's first day, Nabers looks healthy & is talk of camp

YANKS BLOW IT LATE IN CHICAGO

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